



Jamming with Jen

Q2 Nominations

Do you see a Toastmaster who goes above and beyond. Do they deserve a nomination for the following categories: Toastmaster (Non-Officer), Club Officer, Club, Club Mentor, Area Director, or Division Director. Nominations for Q2 are currently open. If you want to nominate someone, please use the link below.

[Nominate here](#)

Town Hall

2nd District 31 Town Hall
Wednesday December 11, 2024

Jen Tam
District Director

Veera RaghavendraSri
Program Quality Director

Christian Austin
Club Growth Director

Bethany Hashway
Public Relations Manager

Come chat with the Fab Four and come with questions!

On Line Zoom
7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Fab Four will be hosting their 2nd Town Hall of the Year. Come hang out with us on Zoom on Wednesday, December 11, at 7:30 PM. Bring any questions and/or topics you want to discuss with us. We will have specific items to discuss, but we want to hear from you. Please register for the Town Hall below.

[Town Hall Registration](#)





Jamming with Jen

Website

As you may have seen, our website has had a makeover. All the content is still there, just rearranged a bit. This is for a more modern, sleek look. Over the next few weeks, more changes will be made. In particular cleaner, more modern launch pages will be created versus the many menus we had at the beginning of the year. Check out the resource page as an example. There will be some background images on some of the pages you visit. We also want to hear your input on the website. Do you like it or not like it? Anything you want to see? Keep in mind of branding constraints. Take our survey for input.

[Website](#)

[Resource Page](#)

[Website Survey](#)

Spam Alert Reminder

Just a reminder that sometimes the spammers ask for gift cards. Please ignore these emails if you receive one. I want to make it clear, I will never ever ask for gift cards.

District Leadership Committee (DLC)

Want to have some input in vetting our leaders for next year? Our DLC chair is looking for members to help vet out the future leaders of our District. These leaders they interview include those on the Fab Four and our Division Directors. Want to be part of the team or have more questions, reach out at dlc@district31.org

Audit Committee

The audit committee is responsible for ensuring the money spent through the budget is all accounted for and appropriately categorized. The committee consists of three members. I already have two and am looking for one more to join the team. Please reach out to jen@district31.org if interested.





Learn and Be Curious with Veera

Club Officer Training & District 31 Holiday Party

Please join us for an in-person Club Officer Training followed by District 31 Holiday Party on December 21st starting at 9:00 AM at Amazon Robotics (50 Otis St, Westborough, MA 01581).

- RSVP: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/district-31-toastmasters-in-person-winter-club-officer-training-north-reading-ma>





Learn and Be Curious with Veera



Winter Club Officer Training: Save The Dates: Learn and Be Curious

<https://district31.org/cot-second-round-training-2024-2025/>

Virtual Club Officer Training – Peer Sessions

- December 3rd, 7-8 pm, [Registration Link](#)
- December 12th, 12-1 pm, [Registration Link](#)

Virtual Club Officer Training – Electives

- December 3rd, 8-9 pm, Building on Achievement for Continued Success, [Registration Link](#)
- December 9th, 7-8 pm, Evaluations: The Secret Sauce of Toastmasters, [Registration Link](#)
- December 11th, 6:30-7:30pm, New Member Orientation Planning, [Registration Link](#)
- December 17th, 12-1pm, Leading the Club to Success, [Registration Link](#)





Learn and Be Curious with Veera

Speech Contest

- **Due Dates**
- Please mark your calendars with the due dates for speech contests. The exact contest type in addition to the International Speech contest will be announced in the September edition of the Newsletter.
- February 14th will be the last day for the Club Contest.
- Between February 15th to March 15th the Area Contest will be scheduled.
- Between March 16th to March 31st the Division Contest will be scheduled.

Speech Contest Rulebook:

- Please review the updated Speech Contest Rulebook, and organize a successful speech contest.
- Please do not assume rules, always review this book while answering questions regarding speech contests.
- <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/2024-2025-speech-contest-rulebook>



SPEECH CONTEST RULEBOOK

JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025



What do you want to see at CLCON 25?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMGF7J3>





Learn and Be Curious with Veera

CLCON 25 : <https://conference.district31.org/>

District 31 Toastmasters

CLCON 25

May 2nd, 3rd, 4th
The Westin Waltham

Holiday Deal Coming Soon: December 21st to December 31st : Holiday Deal : \$95

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx?TID=33964>

Link to the regular price:

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactionInfo.aspx?CustomerID=2343&TransID=33965>

Call For Presenters



CALL FOR SPEAKERS FOR EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

- District 31 (D31) Toastmasters is inviting speakers to present at District 31 Communication and Leadership Conference (CLCON) 25, the district's annual conference held May 2nd, May 3rd, May 4th 2025. Our theme is **“The Power of You - Persisted Imagination”** to identify and bring out the immense power each one of us has to achieve the dreams and goals that we set. As one of our educational session presenters, you will be a key contributor to the success of our conference.
- The proposal should be submitted at [this link](#) before December 31st 2024.





District 31 Newsletter

Review of November, CLCON, Resources, Club and Member Features

November 2024

Learn and Be Curious with Veera



CLCON 25 Logo Contest

- Call to bring your artistic talents to District 31 by designing this year's district conference, CLCON 2025 T-Shirt logo. Design due **December 31st**.
- Enter your design in the T-Shirt logo design contest. If you win, your logo will be featured on the CLCON T-Shirt and other conference branded items given out during the conference, and you'll win Toastmasters swag!

Below are the guidelines for the contest

Please send your design to conferencechair@district31.org by **December 31st**.

- Please include CLCON 2025, "The Power Of You – Persisted Imagination" in your design.
- Your design can be any size and shape. You can draw it in any color.
- Final design on the T-Shirt will be white
- T-Shirt will be Toastmasters blue color.

CLCON 25 Sponsorships

We are targeting to raise \$15,000 via Sponsorship

- Please help us with hot leads
- We thank our Silver Level sponsor : Dassault Systemes
- We thank our Bronze Sponsor : Nuss Corporation





District 31 Newsletter

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Learn and Be Curious with Veera

Keynote Speakers

THE POWER OF YOU
Persisted Imagination

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Farzana Chohan, DTM
International Region 5 Director

Craig Valentine, DTM
World Champion Of Public Speaking

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white globe. A large, vintage-style microphone is on the left. Two people, a woman and a man, are smiling in the center. The text "THE POWER OF YOU" is at the top in white and yellow, with "Persisted Imagination" below it. The names and titles of the keynote speakers are at the bottom.



Christian's Clubhouse

Club Anniversaries

Anniversaries

- 2nd Anniversary New England Biolabs **Chartered 12/12/2022**
- 6th Anniversary Tech Talks **Chartered 12/27/2018**
- 68th Anniversary Central Club **Chartered 12/1/1956**





Christian's Clubhouse

Free Tools to Improve Your Club's Visibility and Build Membership

You are working hard to make your club meetings a quality experience so that members get the most out of your meetings and guests decide to join your club. Planning and running meetings takes a lot of work, but if members and guests do not know about your meetings, and communication is poor, the effort spent on planning and running the meeting will be futile.

Fortunately, numerous **FREE** tools can significantly enhance your club's visibility and both internal and external communication, from expanding reach and improving member communication to creating compelling content and connecting with guests.

Consistently Follow-Up with Members and Attract Guests

- **Google Ad Grants** is a FREE google advertisement for non-profits. It provides up to \$10,000 per month in free advertising on Google Ads. That is not a typo! This would allow your club to create targeted ads that appear in Google search results, attracting more guests in addition to those that inquire through find a clubs.
- **Mailchimp** is an email marketing platform that offers a free tier, allowing you to send up to a max of 1,000 emails monthly to 500 subscribers. Your club could leverage Mailchimp to follow-up with members and guests by creating email campaigns and sending personalized follow-up emails to everyone on your mailing list. The platform also provides tools for designing visually appealing emails
- **Google Business** pages appear a special search results. Your club can be one of these business results that show up in a geographic region by setting it up as a Google Business for free. Attract guests from Google Business results in addition to the more traditional find-a-club website.

Enhance Member Collaboration and Streamline Communications

- **Google Workspace for Nonprofits** You may already use the Google drive and the G-Suite of tools with a free personal account, including Gmail, Docs, Calendar, Drive, and Meet. Nonprofits can apply for a free Google workspace with enhanced application capabilities and more storage. Use shared calendars to coordinate schedules, share files on Drive, and conduct virtual meetings on Meet if you do not have another account. Additionally, with a workspace, you can create professional email addresses with a custom domain name with Gmail, boosting club visibility.





Christian's Clubhouse

Create Content to Get Attention

- **Canva** is a user-friendly graphic design tool that empowers you to create social media graphics, website images, and printed flyers. Canva's free plan offers a variety of templates, free stock photos, and graphics, enabling even those without design experience to produce professional-looking designs. You can also create QR codes with Canva to include in your printed material making it easy to access online content from printed flyers or other media. Look out for future District 31 trainings on the tool.
- **Buffer** is a social management tool, allowing your club to schedule social media posts across various platforms like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Instagram. with a free plan you can connect three social media accounts and schedule up to 10 posts per channel in advance, allowing your club to maintain a consistent online presence and save valuable time.
- **Pexels and Unsplash** are Free stock photo websites that provide access to an extensive library of high-quality images that you can use royalty-free. These platforms eliminate the need for having to check licensing rights to use photos, providing visually appealing additions to your content without having to spend any money.

Advertise your Club Meetings

- **Meetup** provides a platform for District 31 clubs to advertise future meetings and events. To post club events under the district account for free, please contact the Fab Four at fabfour@district31.org to be added as an event coordinator.

Take advantage of these free tools to amplify your club's visibility, and enhance its communication and efficiency, ensuring you maximize the effort that your club is put into planning and running unforgettable meetings.





Christian's Clubhouse

Membership Incentives

Quarterly Awards

During the District 31 Quarterly Awards on October 22, 2024, winners of the 50 for 5 and Early renewal incentives were announced. Keep reading to find out more!

50 for 5

50 FOR 5

- Clubs with a base less than 20 members
- Add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members within a quarter
- Earn a \$50 Toastmasters International store gift certificate

Is your club having difficulty getting the membership base above 20 members? It's the perfect time to grow your club's membership and get rewarded for your membership building initiatives. Follow up with those Find-a-Club inquiries; invite friends, colleagues or relatives to meetings; demonstrate the value and fun of your meetings; and soon you'll watch how soon guests want to become members!

Reward your club and new members with some new items from the Toastmasters International store:

- For clubs with a base less than 20 members
- Adding five new, dual, or reinstated members within a quarter will earn a \$50 Toastmasters International Store gift certificate.





Christian's Clubhouse

Open House Reimbursement



The holidays are upon us, and although focus is on them, this is the perfect time to plan for an open house in the new year! Have your open house ready to go as the calendar turns 2025 and recruit people who could benefit from Toastmasters to meet their new year goals to improve speaking, presentation, and leadership skills. The District is here to support you in running an unforgettable open house.

1. Run an open house
2. Save receipts and label refreshments, or media purchased specifically for the open house
3. Save an agenda from the event
4. Submit the receipts and agenda to the Fab Four fabfour@district31.org
5. The Fab Four will issue a Concur account to apply for reimbursement
6. District 31 will reimburse the club up to \$50

Please contact fabfour@district31.org for reimbursement. Happy Open House'ing!





Christian's Clubhouse

Start a Club Initiative



Know a company or community that could benefit from a Toastmasters club? Has someone been asking about how to form one? We're here to support them and you can **earn up to \$100 of Toastmasters International store gift certificates** by referring them. Here's how it works:

1. Refer a contact at a company or in a community that wants to start a Toastmasters club to **Christian at cgd@district31.org**.
2. If the contact leads to the district doing a demo meeting, you earn a **\$25 Toastmasters International store gift certificate**.
3. You have the first option to sponsor and mentor the new club.
4. If the club charts, you will earn an additional **\$75 Toastmasters International store gift certificate**.

That is \$100 worth of total gift certificates. Think of all the great Toastmasters Swag you could win for yourself or your clubs. Start referring those new club contacts today.





Christian's Clubhouse

Plus One Pledge



TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

100

[Login](#) | [Find a Club](#) | [Start a Club](#) | [Contact Us](#) |

[About](#) | [Education Programs](#) | [Membership](#) | [Resources](#) | [Magazine](#) | [Events](#) | [Shop](#)

Be the Spark; Pledge to Bring a Guest



To celebrate our centennial year in true Toastmasters fashion, share the benefit of the Toastmasters club experience! Join Toastmasters around the world pledging to bring a guest to a meeting by the end of December. Make the commitment now, and you'll get a few check-ins with reminders to invite a friend, family member, coworker, or acquaintance.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email Address *

I pledge to bring at least one guest with me to a club meeting by December 31, 2024.

 **Need Help?**
Chat with Tracy





Christian's Clubhouse

Plus one Pledge, Cont.

<https://www.toastmasters.org/events/centennial/CentennialPledge>

You may remember the District 31 initiative to *Bring a Friend* to your club's meeting. Toastmasters International has launched a similar initiative for its centennial year called the Plus one Pledge. Join Toastmasters around the world in pledging to bring a guest to a meeting by the end of December. Sign up on the Toastmasters International webpage, and you'll get a few check-ins with reminders to invite a friend, family member, coworker, or acquaintance. PLUS, if you bring five new guests who join the club, you'll win the Smedley Award AND a \$50 Toastmasters Store gift certificate from the District 31 "5 for 50" initiative.

District 31 Advanced Clubs





Christian's Clubhouse

District 31 Advanced Clubs Cont.

You may have joined District 31 on October 26th and the District 100 Year Expo and participated in the Advanced Club morning workshops, or perhaps you missed the event. The good news is that you can join a District 31 advanced club meetings to experience how an advanced club can help you **bring your speaking and leadership skills to the next level.**

Here is the upcoming schedule of the next meetings for all the District 31 Advanced Clubs in the month of November. Click on the club name to link to each club's home page for more information on how to join a meeting:

[Seven Hills Advanced Toastmasters](#) – Tuesday, December 3, 5:30-7 PM

[AccelOrators Advanced Toastmasters Club](#) – Thursday, December 5, 7-9 PM

[Advanced Orators Toastmasters Club](#) – Monday, December 9, 7-9 PM

[Advanced Articulators of Andover](#) - Tuesday, December 10, 7-8:30 PM

[Advanced Access Toastmasters Club](#) - Tuesday, December 17, 6:50-9 PM

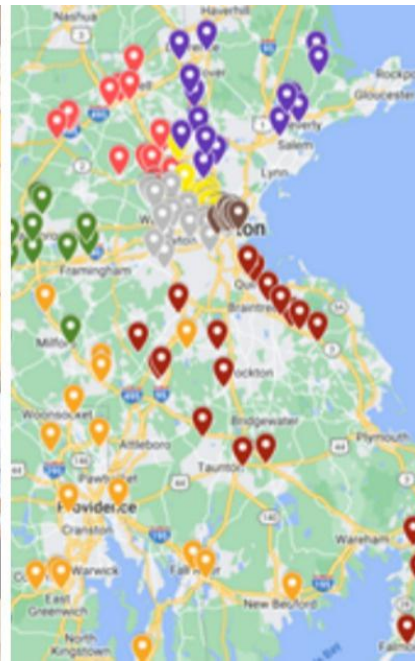
Please visit the clubs websites to verify meeting times (they may change around the holidays) and to inquire about additional meetings during the month.

For more details about each of the advanced clubs and advanced clubs in general, check out the [District 31 advanced club website](#).



Christian's Clubhouse

District Open Houses



District open houses are coming back this year! We are planning in-person open houses around the district.

- The District facilitates and advertises
- Clubs run, guests visit or joint participating clubs

Clubs will team up and work with the district to put on a great meeting for guests that will inquire about attending your club meetings in the future.

FAQs about the district open house:

1. Will the district all cover event expenses?

Yes, the district will cover all expenses for the event, including refreshments, supplies, decorations, etc. We just ask club members to help run the event.

2. When similar events have occurred in the past, what were the outcomes?

A couple of District open houses were run last year. The format differed, though. The district ran the event and requested volunteers from in the local area to participate in roles. There was no promotion of specific clubs. If members showed up from other clubs, they had the opportunity to network with guests. There were no followup surveys with guests, so we do not have statistics on guests.





Christian's Clubhouse

FAQs about the district open house cont.

3. How many guests do you expect at the event? How many clubs generally participate?

We don't know, since this is the first time the district is using this format. Guests participation will depend on how well we advertise, the theme/speakers connecting with guests. Clubs will organize these aspects of the meeting, and the district will work with the clubs to facilitate implementation. Club participation will depend on how many clubs would like to help organize and run the event.

4. If this event is to attract more guests to multiple clubs, which clubs typically retain these guests as potential members? We are concerned about all clubs mutually benefiting from the collaboration.

That is a legitimate concern if there are multiple clubs trying to attract guests. Clubs will have an opportunity to provide guests with a mission statement or synopsis about the club. How that is built into the events be up to the organizing clubs. Guests will be encouraged to visit multiple clubs to determine which one is the best fit for them. An analogous event was the district 100 Year event held in the end of October, where Advanced clubs collaborated in the morning to put on workshops. All clubs promoted themselves, and encouraged guests to visit each of their clubs.

5. How would I turn this into an upper-level Pathways project. Can you give more details on what specific projects you mean?

Please see the events section of this District 31 webpage for ideas:

<https://district31.org/2023-2024-public-relations-projects-jobs/>

6. Would this event happen at a specific time of day or day of the week?

We are surveying interested clubs to gather more information, including the month, time and day of the week.

If your club is **interested in participating** in an open house, or if you **have a venue that we can use to host an open house**, please contact Christian at cgd@district31.org





Christian's Clubhouse

The Club Growth Team



The club growth team leads the district effort to bring new clubs to the district and help existing clubs gain and retain members by running fun and engaging meetings.

Join the Club Growth Leadership Team

The club growth team is looking for someone that likes using the phone to communicate with members or guests in your Toastmasters club or at work and would like to help others become more comfortable on the phone:

Phone Out-Reach Chair

- Works with the District Marketing Chair with focus on phone outreach.
- Contacts prospective corporations that should have a club by phone.
- Assists with training district phone training

Candidate Background: Experience in phone sales, manages a phone sales team, and/or likes talking to people.

If you would like to join the team, please **contact Christian at cgd@district31.org**.





Christian's Clubhouse

Earn your DTM

Become a Club Sponsor, Mentor, or Coach

If you're not interested in being a chair, there is also the opportunity to become a **club sponsor, mentor, or coach** and earn **Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) credit**.



The DTM Toolkit

If you'd like to learn more about earning a DTM, keep a lookout for DTM posts showcasing David Lintz's DTM toolkit on the [district homepage](#) under News and Highlights and on District 31 social media—click on the icons in the footer to visit D31 social media sites. The first posts of several are posted:



The newest post shows you how to get an early start on your DTM, even if the DTM project has not appeared in Base Camp yet. To view the toolkit in its entirety check out the [DTM toolkit](#) for ideas and resources to get started.





Christian's Clubhouse

Help with Demo Meetings



When clubs express interest in chartering, District 31 members help to put on an introductory demonstration meeting. This is not only a good opportunity to help a new club become successful, it is also an opportunity to do a meeting with a club that you might be considering sponsoring or mentoring in the future.

Please contact Christian at cgd@district31.org if you are interested in any of these positions

Club Outreach Co-Chairs

Club officers may have seen an email last month from Club Outreach Co-Chairs Jeanne Cox, Ginny Layton-Leal, and Peter Swan. The club Outreach Co-Chairs periodically reach out to clubs to:

1. Provide you with information about current district events and deadlines.
2. Ask if your club needs district support.
3. Provide feedback to the district on clubs in need of support
4. Work together with district leaders (Fab Four, Area and Division Directors) to provide support

When you see a future email from them, please let them know if your club needs support, or has feedback for the district. .





Christian's Clubhouse

Calling for club social media sites



If your club has a social media site that you'd like to feature on District 31 sites, please send the URL to fabfour@district31.org with the clubs of Your Club Name Social Media Link.

This month check out Quincy Toastmaster's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/QT MUS/>





Shining the Light in D31

Quarter 1 Winner: Division Director Michael Mateo



Michael's Bio:

Michael has been involved in Toastmasters in District 31 for ten years. He originally joined Toast Wizards in 2014, which is a corporate club located in Cambridge, MA. He has progressed through all the club officer roles, including Club President from 2019 to 2020. Michael became an Area Director for Area 31 in Division C from 2021 to 2022. He is currently serving as the Division F Director for 2024 to 2025. Michael earned his Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) Award in 2024 and it has been the highlight of his Toastmasters Journey. Michael recently joined the Advanced Orators club in June 2024, to further enhance his public speaking and leadership skills. He resides in Canton, MA, and being the Division F Director has allowed him to connect with other Toastmaster members and clubs in the South Shore and Cape Cod area.

Michael as Division F Director:

I am honored to be recognized as Division Director of the Quarter for Q1 of the 2024-2025 Toastmasters year. It takes a lot of persistence and determination to be successful. When I was appointed Division Director, I started visiting clubs in the Division to introduce myself and meet other Toastmaster members. I also looked for individuals to fill the Area Director roles within the Division. It was with this team of exceptional Area Directors that has helped Division F accomplish its goals this quarter. Training is important and I was able to share some of my knowledge at the Club Officer Training (COT) sessions as well as the Area Director training over the summer. Communication is also a key factor and I was able to keep members in Division F informed by emailing them with Quarterly news. I enjoyed attending the District 31 Toastmasters 100 Year Celebration Expo and I look forward to serving the district for the remainder of the Toastmasters year.





Coffee With Caryl



Pour yourself a cup and get a taste of Coffee with Caryl at caryl31.wordpress.com.

Every week, Caryl explores a new topic or profile, shares best practices and invaluable tips for increasing guests, retaining members, strengthening leadership teams and running high quality meetings. Learn about triumphs (and failures), and fresh perspectives on personal development.

To subscribe and receive notification of the weekly post on Thursdays at 8 am:

From your computer (not a phone!) ...

1. Click on the “+Follow” button on the lower right hand side
2. Then type in your email address and click “sign me up”
3. You’ll receive an email to confirm your subscription and you need to click the “Confirm now” button

If you know anybody who would benefit from a personal note about the blog, send an email with subject “Caryl’s Blog” and include the name and email in the body to prm@district31.org.





District 31 Newsletter

Review of November, CLCON, Resources, Club and Member Features

November 2024



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You were added to this list because you are a member of District 31 Toastmasters. You'll receive reminders of events (TLIs and conferences), deadlines (dues, officer elections) and other general news about the District. Please consider staying a member of this list to ensure you get timely updates.

