

DISTRICT 50

DIGEST

AUGUST 2025



District Director Denise Castille, DTM, and Immediate Past International President Radhi Spear, DTM, at the Toastmasters International 2025 District Leader Training in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

***Back to Basics:
Club Success and Personal Growth***

Table of Contents



DISTRICT 50

03

Save the Date

District Events

05

From the Desk of the District Director

08

District realignment

A message from IPDD Kimberly Ross

09

See what's happening in District 50!

15

Back to basics - mastering the fundamentals leads to success and personal growth

06

Program Quality

Congratulations to Early Achievers

07

Club Growth

Multiply the Ripple

11

Shout it out!

14

Spruce up your 'front door'

16

D50 After Dark Episode drops

District 50 Digest is a publication of District 50 Toastmasters.

Editor: Amy Bemis, DTM
Public Relations Manager

 prm@d50tm.org

 <https://d50tm.org/>

Save the Date



DISTRICT 50
FALL CONVERGE


Fall Converge 2025
November 15, 2025
Collin College


9700 Wade Boulevard
Frisco, TX 75035


Connect. Share. Celebrate.


Get ready for an unforgettable day of growth, connection, and celebration. Whether you're an experienced speaker or just getting started, Fall Converge brings together the best of our Toastmasters community.

What Awaits You

 **Mock Evaluation Contest:** Watch skilled evaluators in action and learn the art of constructive feedback that transforms speakers.

 **Educational Sessions:** Power-packed learning opportunities designed to sharpen your skills and boost your confidence.

 **Networking That Matters:** Connect with fellow Toastmasters, share your journey, and build relationships that last beyond the event.

 **Recognition & Celebration:** Honor achievements and be inspired by the incredible talent in District 50.

Registration opens soon.

Want to be part of the magic behind the scenes? We need passionate volunteers to help make Fall Converge unforgettable! Contact Fall Event Chair John Mottram, PM5, at fall@d50tm.org to volunteer.

Save the Date



D I S T R I C T 5 0 S P R I N G C O N F E R E N C E

May 1-2, 2026
University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)

The excitement begins with the **Evaluation Speech Contest** followed by a full day of Toastmasters excellence at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center:

- Network with fellow Toastmasters
- Participate in dynamic development sessions designed to enhance your communication and leadership skills
- Culminate the day with the inspiring International Speech Contest

To volunteer for Spring Conference, contact Spring Conference Chair Kellie McMaster, DTM, at springconference@d50tm.org.

Don't miss these opportunities to grow, connect, and celebrate!



DISTRICT 50

DISTRICT MISSION

We build new clubs and support
all clubs in achieving excellence



From the Desk of the District Director

The \$99 Tennis Shoes

At a recent conference where I was speaking, I decided to wander into the expo hall. That is, until I hit a roadblock.

"You can't come in with open-toe shoes," the staffer told me.

My mind instantly started scanning for any prior warning — an email, a registration note, a tiny line of fine print. Nothing.

I needed in.

I ordered an Uber. It couldn't get to me.

I hailed a cab. The driver waited as I ran into Walmart and grabbed a pair of tennis shoes.

Total cost? About \$99 for the shoes and the cab ride.

I got back, flashed my new sneakers, and stepped inside.

And then... I ran out of fingers counting all the people wearing open-toe shoes.

The takeaway?

Rules (and their enforcement) aren't always communicated clearly or applied consistently. Sometimes, you'll be the one inconvenienced, and sometimes you'll be the one who unknowingly inconveniences someone else.

In Toastmasters — just like at that expo — the way we share expectations matters. The clearer we are, the less time others will waste scrambling to "buy the right shoes" to participate.

And this month's District Digest theme, Back to Basics, is a perfect reminder - Going back to the fundamentals — like clear, consistent communication — can save confusion, build trust, and keep everyone focused on growth instead of last-minute fixes.

Be the Ripple. Shape the Future.

Denise Castille, DTM

2025-2026 D50 District Director

PROGRAM QUALITY

RHONDA BUNTE, DTM
PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR



Congratulations to our Early Achievers!

As of August 19, 2025, 15 clubs have completed their Club Success Plan! These clubs are off to a fantastic start for the 2025–2026 Toastmasters year.

Division	Area	Club Name
E	11	New Beginnings Toastmasters
E	12	Bossier Speakers
E	14	Toastmasters of Rockwall Club
E	14	Tyler Evening Toastmasters
E	14	Speak EZ
F	21	Allen Toastmasters
F	22	T Masters
F	25	McKinney Motivators
M	31	Best of Dallas Toastmasters
M	31	Amazon Toastmasters @ DFW
M	32	Ryan <u>Rhetorics</u> Club
M	33	Park Central Toastmasters
P	43	Toyota Performance Speakers
S	51	Dallas Social Toastmasters
S	55	Waxahachie Toastmasters

Ready to join them? Per Toastmasters International, to be eligible for Distinguished Club recognition for the 2025–2026 Toastmasters year, a club must meet the following three requirements:

- A club must be in good standing according to Policy 2.0: Club and Membership Eligibility, Section 4: Good Standing of Clubs.
- A club must have either 20 members or a net growth of at least three new, dual, or reinstating members as of June 30.
- The club must submit the Club Success Plan by September 30, 2025.

For more details, [see July 2025 edition of District 50 Digest.](#)

Let's keep the momentum going! Just submit your Club Success Plan before September 30!



Pro Tip: We're encouraging clubs to submit their plans as early as August 31 – this gives you more time to focus on implementing your success strategies rather than rushing to meet the deadline!



CLUB GROWTH

SHANE GILMORE, EC4, EH1, PI1

CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR

Multiply the Ripple

"I left the 2025 Toastmasters International Convention fired up and crystal-clear about my charge as Club Growth Director."

The Toastmasters District mission—"We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence"—was reiterated with conviction. **Simply put, this is the Main Thing.**

For District 50, that means ripples—becoming waves. We will plant clubs where people live, work, study, worship, and serve. We will strengthen every existing club so members don't just participate; they grow.

Our Bold Target

Launch 25 new clubs without losing a single one. We'll get there by creating ripples in three domains:

- **People** — empower sponsors, mentors, coaches, and every member with simple playbooks and quick-hit training.
- **Places** — spot hot zones (companies, campuses, communities) and turn interest into demo meetings—fast.
- **Partnerships** — engage chambers, nonprofits, faith communities, and employers seeking proven leadership development that works.

Your CGD Team

Four leaders have stepped up to keep "the main thing the main thing" and help D50 grow:

- **Greg Muckelroy** — New Club Resource Chair, VC4
- **Levi Richardson** — Club Extension Chair, PM1
- **Marcheta Gardner** — Club Quality Chair, DTM
- **Walter Price** — Club Retention Chair, DTM

Step In. Show Up. Ripple Out.

Join the CGD Team. We're recruiting in the areas above. In alignment with D50 Everywhere, we also need members to represent D50 at community events and to help process new-club leads. One hour a week can launch a club that changes a career—and a community.

Incentives Coming in September

Watch the [D50 website](#) for new growth-building incentives designed to accelerate launches and strengthen existing clubs, effective in September.

Let's keep the main thing the main thing—and **Multiply the Ripple together.**



Immediate Past District Director

KIMBERLY ROSS, DTM

Greetings District 50!

I hope this message finds you well and ready to make a significant impact this Toastmasters year! At our 2025 Annual Business Meeting, the District Council adopted the realignment report prepared by last year's Alignment Chair, David Adams, and the Division Directors. This proposal considered factors such as club health, location, meeting times, and formats. Toastmasters International requires a minimum of four healthy clubs with 8+ members and at least four areas per Division.

To meet these requirements, District Director Denise Castille, Reformation and Realignment Chair DaWane Wanek, and I reviewed the numbers and made necessary adjustments. Despite our best efforts, we had to deviate from the original report. The revised 2024–2025 District Alignment report will be announced at the September District Council meeting. All Division Directors, Area Directors, and Clubs have been notified, and Toastmasters International has accepted our proposal.

I hope this clarifies any questions you may have. Let's make this year the best we can!

Toasty regards,
Kimberly Ross, DTM

[Please click the boundary narrative and map for the larger versions.](#)



Group 5 District Boundaries

District 50

The District boundaries of this District shall be as follows:

Arkansas:

All counties except for Benton, Crawford, Crittenden, Lee, Mississippi, Phillips, Sebastian, St. Francis, and Washington.

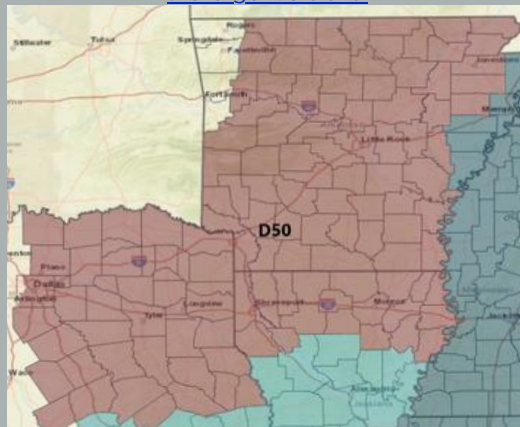
Louisiana:

The portion north of the southern border of the following parishes:
De Soto, Red River, Bienville, Jackson, Caldwell, Franklin, and Tensas.

Texas:

The portion east of the western borders of the following counties:
Grayson, Collin, Ellis, Navarro, Limestone, and Robertson. And the portion of Dallas County east of I-35E to exclude the cities of Coppell, Grand Prairie, and Irving.

The portion north of the southern borders of the following counties:
Robertson, Leon, Houston, Trinity, Angelina, San Augustine, and Sabine.





See What's Happening in District 50

Every month, we'll show you the numbers that matter—the real impact of our work together, the growth we're driving, and the connections that are transforming District 50.

Be the Ripple. Shape the Future.



17

Trio Club Visits



New member packets mailed to date

71

Thrive

Beyond the Gavel: Why Every Toastmaster Should Compete

31

attended



D50 Cares reach-outs

3



Cisco Richardson Club Demo

20

in person

70

virtual



See What's Happening in District 50



July 15–August 13, 2025 Snapshot

- Monthly Downloads: 297 streams and downloads, powering up our Toastmasters community with every listen!
- Total Listening Time: Listeners logged 2 consumption hours, diving deep into our episodes' leadership and communication insights.
- Spotify Impressions: Scored 148 impressions on Spotify (91 via Spotify Home, 38 from Spotify Search, 10 from Spotify Library), proving we're catching attention across the platform!



D50 Toastmasters private group:

- **1,569 members**
- **58 posts from July 26 - August 22**
- **577 active members**
- **The most popular day is Thursday**

Top 3 posts with their reach:

7/27/2025
11:26 AM



What an amazing Farewell/Hail party last night. Building better relationships, lol
Posted by Herb Kulp

305

8/14/2025
12:23 PM



On August 12, 2025, Toastmasters International honored me with my **7th Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)**...
Posted by Sarfaraz Nazir

303

8/21/2025
2:51 PM



Congratulations to Elaine Royal (District 25) for advancing to the World Championship of Public Speaking Finals.
Posted by Sarfaraz Nazir

245



Shout It Out! Cultivating a Culture of Celebration, Recognition, and Appreciation

In our last [District Digest](#), we shared our vision for District 50: a place where members feel seen, valued, and celebrated.

We're on a quest to cultivate a culture of celebration, recognition, and appreciation — because when we lift others up, our whole community rises.

One of the simplest ways to make this happen? **Shout-Outs**.

We've created **physical Shout-Out cards** you can use to recognize the big wins and the little moments that make a difference.

Whether it's a first-time speaker who nailed their icebreaker, a club officer who went the extra mile, or someone who always makes guests feel welcome, every **Shout-Out** is a chance to shine a light on what's going right.

How It Works

- **Who can request the cards?** Club **Presidents** or **Vice Presidents Education** are the only officers who should request cards from the district. This ensures one point of contact and helps us track where the cards are going.
- **Online-only clubs?** You can still participate! When requesting cards, ask for the **fillable digital version** instead. Members can submit their **Shout-Outs** electronically, and you can share them during your online meetings or in follow-up emails.
- **How to request cards?** Email Admin@d50tm.org with your name, club, and whether you want physical or digital cards, and how many you'd like.

How to use them

- At the start of a meeting, take 90 seconds to hear quick **Shout-Outs** to fellow Toastmasters who you've noticed doing something shout-out worthy.
- Encourage members to fill out cards during or after the meeting and pass them along.

District-level shout outs: Expect to see this at big meetings the district hosts — and if you don't, hold us accountable!



Shout-Outs in Action

Recently at the Eastern TLI, we saw shout outs in action. Here are a few examples:



District 50 Shout Out



You're the Ripple - Inspiring Positive Change

Thank you for your commitment, leadership, and positive energy you bring to District 50. You exemplify our RISE values (Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence), and we're proud to have you as part of the Toastmasters Family.

Keep rising, keep shining!

Personal Message

*A BIG HOO RAY TO PAUL STURDEVANT OF
SPEAKER TEASTMASTER FOR HIS CONTINUOUS
COMMITMENT + SUPPORT OF OUR CLUB.
HIS CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE & WORK THE DAY
USAGE " IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL "*

Be the Ripple. Shape the Future.



District 50 Shout Out



You're the Ripple - Inspiring Positive Change

Thank you for your commitment, leadership, and positive energy you bring to District 50. You exemplify our RISE values (Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence), and we're proud to have you as part of the Toastmasters Family.

Keep rising, keep shining!

Personal Message

*Avik kothi - Sir ADG5 - Thank you for encouraging
me to step up as president of our club. Learned
so much from you. - Parth Bhingarde*

Be the Ripple. Shape the Future.



Shout-Outs in Action



District 50 Shout Out



You're the Ripple - Inspiring Positive Change

Thank you for your commitment, leadership, and positive energy you bring to District 50. You exemplify our RISE values (Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence), and we're proud to have you as part of the Toastmasters Family.

Keep rising, keep shining!

Personal Message

*NANCY MANNING IS A ROCK!!
NOT ONLY IS SHE INTEGRAL TO SPEAKERS BUT ALSO OTHER
CLUBS & THE DISTRICT. IF NANCY SAYS SHE WILL DO
SOMETHING OR BE SOMEWHERE YOU CAN BE SURE!
SHE WILL GET IT DONE & BE THERE. YEAH NANCY.*

Be the Ripple. Shape the Future.

These quick moments of recognition took less than two minutes, yet they left everyone feeling energized and appreciated.

Let's keep the momentum going. Presidents and VPEs — request your shout-out cards, make recognition a regular part of your meetings, and help us grow this culture of celebration across District 50.





Spruce Up Your Club's 'Front Door'

**When someone is curious about Toastmasters,
where's the first place they look?**

You guessed it — the Find a Club page on the Toastmasters International website.

Think of it as your club's front door. Is the welcome mat clean, the address correct, and the porch light on? Or is there an outdated meeting time, an old contact email, and a dusty description from 2019?

If a prospective member walks by a door that looks closed... they'll keep walking.

That's why we're encouraging every club to double-check and update their listing. Fresh, accurate info means more guests walking through your door.

How to Give Your Club a Quick Refresh

1. Log in to www.toastmasters.org using your club officer credentials.
2. Navigate to Leadership Central → Club Central.
3. Find the Club Contact and Meeting Information section.
4. Update meeting times, location, contact info, website, and social media links.
5. Save your changes.
6. Verify they appear correctly on the public Find a Club page.

The Reward

If your club updates its Find a Club information by Friday, September 5th, send a screenshot of the updated listing to Admin@d50tm.org.

We'll send your club \$10 in Toastmasters Bookstore Bucks to spend however you like — manuals, pins, banners... you name it!

Challenge yourself to make this a habit at least once a year. It takes less than 10 minutes, and it keeps your club's front door wide open for the next guest who's ready to walk in.



Back to Basics: The fundamentals lead to success!

TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS — learning experience —

Pathways+ with
Basecamp Manager
Friday, August 29:
6PM

Hey there, D50 members! 🎉 Get ready for our exciting Pathways Education Webinar happening every month! 🚀 Everyone's invited to join the fun, and our Pathways + session is packed with awesome Basecamp Management tips! [Click here to register now!](#)

Need extra help? I've got you covered! 🙌

I can swing by your club meetings! Got questions? I'm here to tackle any individual challenges you're facing.

Reach out anytime at pathways@d50tm.org—let's make Pathways a blast together! 😊

Dan Reeder, VC5, EH4, LD4, MS4, PM2
Pathways Chair

Distinguished Club Quick Reference



Club Success Plan submitted
to Toastmasters International
by September 30, 2025



20 members or net growth of 3 by June 30, 2026



5 goals completed by June 30, 2026



CONGRATS

YOUR CLUB IS
DISTINGUISHED!



D50 After Dark

Picture This: a podcast crew darting between coffee shops, libraries, and offices, wielding mics like superheroes and turning green screens into magic portals!

2025 Year-to-Date Highlights

- Total Downloads in 2025: Approximately 3,564 streams and downloads across all episodes (estimated based on 297 monthly downloads averaged over 12 months), showcasing a year of inspiring Toastmasters stories!
- Global Reach: Engaged listeners across the U.S., India, Ukraine, Malaysia, Canada, and beyond, amplifying District 50's voice worldwide.

[Watch the latest episodes featuring Monnica Rose and Guarav Shekhar!](#)



Subscribe. Review. Comment.

[Spotify](#)

[Apple](#)

[YouTube](#)

Keep shining,

Tommy Kenyon & the D50 After Dark Team
D50AfterDark@D50tm.org

