



# District 15 Newsletter August 2025



**This is your newsletter!  
We want to hear from you.  
Please send any  
celebrations, open houses,  
member highlights, etc., you  
would like to share. Let's  
celebrate together and learn  
about our community!**

## District News

**Updated Club Officer Training:** We are happy to announce we now have 73% of all club officers trained!

The District's goal is to have all officers trained in every club. If you are a club officer who still needs training, reach out to your club's Area Director to schedule a training before August 31.

**New Member Orientations:** Orientations are provided by the District to all new members on the third Wednesday of each month with times alternating between noon and 6 pm. Information is at [www.district15speaks.com](http://www.district15speaks.com)

## A message from our District Director

Dear District 15 Toastmasters

This is the last year for us as District 15, and we want to make it an engaging, empowering experience for every member - to bring back the glory days of District 15! Together we can create memories, impact, and growth that will last far beyond this year.

I am also proud to share a major success story: District Alignment has been successfully completed and approved by Toastmasters International! 🎉

This was a complex and detailed task, and our leadership team worked diligently to make it happen. Great job, team!

We have also launched several club incentives this year. Please refer to the newsletter details and take advantage of these opportunities to help your clubs shine.

Leadership Internship Opportunities:

Toastmasters is where leaders are made. To stay true to this, District 15 is opening multiple internship roles designed to engage members, empower growth, and prepare future leaders of our district:

- Assistant Area Quality Director (Intern) – Build your facilitation and coaching skills.
  - Assistant Area Club Growth Director (Intern) – Strengthen your sales and marketing skills.
  - Assistant Area Director (Intern) – Learn administration and leadership by shadowing current leaders.
  - Public Relations Committee Member – Enhance your PR and communication skills.
- ✅ All interns will receive training and techniques, and the time commitment is about 1 hour per week.

New Specialty Clubs Initiative:

We are excited to initiate specialty clubs across District 15, giving members more ways to connect, engage, and empower each other:

- Toastmasters Club for Project Managers
  - Toastmasters Club for Travelers
  - Toastmasters Club for Pet Owners
  - We welcome your suggestions for new specialty clubs!
- “What is Toastmasters?” Initiative

We have launched a new initiative to share “What is Toastmasters?” across the district. This effort will help create greater awareness of the benefits of Toastmasters and route potential guest inquiries directly to clubs through our PRM Committee (expanding both visibility and membership).

👉 If you would like to:

- Join one of these specialty clubs
- Take part in leadership internships
- Share your ideas or leadership aspirations

Please reach out to us at: ✉ [district15trio@gmail.com](mailto:district15trio@gmail.com)

🔗 Email <https://www.district15speaks.org/district-15-leader-roster-for-2025-2026/>

🌟 Your engagement, ideas, and leadership will make the difference. Together, let's bring back the glory days of District 15! 🌟

Warm regards,

Sameer Deshmukh, DTM

District Director 2025–2026

District 15 Toastmasters International





## **What is the Horizon Award?**

This is an award given by the District for clubs who submit their Club Success Plans by August 31. The club is entered into a drawing for \$25 District Dollars and is recognized on [district15speaks.org](http://district15speaks.org) - and in this newsletter! You only have a few more days to earn this award so don't delay!



## **And what is the Eight Is Great Award?**

Get EIGHT club members to submit and pay their membership dues\* and your club will be entered into a drawing to receive \$20 District Dollars.

OR

Get TWENTY club members to submit and pay their membership dues\* for your club to be entered into a drawing to receive \$40 District Dollars.

\* Member dues must be submitted and paid to Toastmasters International no later than September 15th to be eligible for this promotion.



# Member Spotlight: Annette Krause

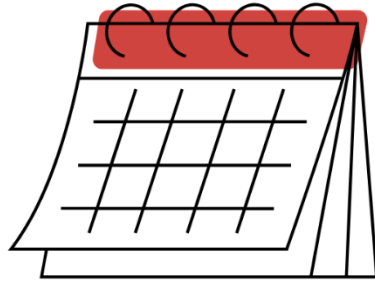


Every Toastmaster's journey is shaped by time—time spent preparing speeches, supporting a fellow member, or stepping into leadership. Each education award earned celebrates the hours of practice and courage invested in growth. Each officer role held reflects a season of service, where members dedicate their time to lifting others. And each mentoring or coaching opportunity shows how one member's time can change another's path. In Toastmasters, the minutes we give become milestones—not just in our own story, but in the stories of everyone we inspire along the way.

For the past 20 years in Toastmasters, I've had the privilege of watching new district teams bring fresh ideas and inspire us all to grow as leaders. Along the way, I've celebrated over 100 educational awards, yet I'm still discovering new ways to communicate more effectively. After serving in 75 officer roles, I can honestly say that every team continues to teach me something new. What keeps me coming back, though, is cheering on others—whether they're just beginning their journey toward self-confidence or reaching for higher leadership. Seeing those transformations never gets old.

Outside of meetings, I like to bring a little fun into my speeches with my offbeat humor and love of multiplayer online games. And when I'm not behind the lectern, you might find me baking treats for the office (funny how everyone complains about the calories, but the plates always come back empty!).

I can't wait to meet even more new friends as we come together in our merger next year—because for me, Toastmasters has always been about connection, growth, and the joy of learning together.



## Mark Your Calendars

**Smedley Membership Campaign ends next month.**

**Monthly DEC checkpoint: September 12, 7 pm.**

**Club officer training deadline for DCP credit: August 31.**

**Submit Club Success Plans to District 15 webpage to  
qualify for Horizon Award by August 31.**

**Eight Is Great Award deadline: September 15.**



Be sure to check out our  
social media activities:

[www.facebook.com/groups/district15toastmasters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/district15toastmasters)

Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/d15toastmasters-meet-up-group/>

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