



This is your newsletter!

To make this newsletter fun, I need your help. What's happening in your club?

Anyone leveling up? What about an Icebreaker speech? Open House? And pictures! Send me pictures of your new members, Best Table Topics/Speaker for the week, your open house, or any celebrations. We want to celebrate with you!

I also want suggestions for how to make the newsletter better.

Send all news, photos, suggestions to debbie_crutchfield@yahoo.com.



District News

Club Officer Training

This month the District is focused on training all club officers. So far we have 234 club officers trained out of a possible 351 (66.7%)

Seven clubs have seven officers trained!!!

Area B2 is the first area with all of its officers trained!!!!

Congratulations!!

This District's trainings have been completed, but it's not too late to attend other Districts' trainings. District 21 is offering several trainings. Find that information [here](#). If these options do not work, reach out to your Area Director for training.

New Member Orientations

The schedule for new member orientations has changed for this Toastmaster year. These trainings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, alternating times between 12 noon and 6:30 pm. You can find the schedule/times at www.district15speaks.org website under the events tab.

*A Letter from our District
Director*



Dear Toastmasters of District 15,

As we begin the 2025–2026 Toastmasters year, I want to share my heartfelt vision and commitment as your District Director.

Our Focus: Our Members

Everything we do this year will revolve around you—your growth, your goals, and your journey. Whether you joined Toastmasters to become a more confident speaker, a stronger leader, or to connect with like-minded individuals, your purpose matters. And we’re here to support you every step of the way.

My vision is to foster a collaborative environment in our district where members feel engaged, officers feel empowered, and Toastmasters information is actively shared across District 15. We will support every member and every club to achieve excellence and provide meaningful education and leadership opportunities. District 15 is more than just an organizational structure, here, every voice matters, every role contributes, and every success is worth celebrating.

Meet Your Leadership Team:

I am grateful to be supported by a passionate, talented team of leaders, and we are all here to assist you:

- **Program Quality Director: Courtney Carlovsky, DTM**
- **Club Growth Director: Michael Hachigian, DTM**
- **Public Relations Manager: Vijay Chinnasamy**
- **Administration Manager: Debbie Crutchfield**
- **Finance Manager: Charles Idehen**

- Webmaster: Chris Frye, DTM
- Division and Area Directors: [District 15 Leader Roster 2025–2026](#)

We, along with our Division and Area Directors, will be working closely with clubs to provide ongoing support, guidance, and encouragement throughout the year. I believe in transparency, kindness, and a belief in connection. If you have questions, ideas, or concerns, please reach out.

Let's grow, lead, and thrive together!

Warm regards,

Sameer Deshmukh, DTM

District Director 2025–2026

Toastmasters International – District 15

DD@District15speaks.org



**Whose picture
will be here
next month?**

Show off what you do

This is where your club or member receives recognition. Please send me some news!



Member Spotlight: Karen Bradakis

**My History in Image Masters
by Karen Bradakis**

My Toastmasters journey began in October, 1988, when my friend Dee asked me to go with her to the Toastmasters meeting when she was giving a speech to help her feel more comfortable. I am glad that she introduced me to Toastmasters. She spoke well for her speech. I was intrigued when I learned about the Table

Topics portion of the meeting. I used to get brain freeze when I wanted to speak to only 3 people. I decided to join the club.

The first time I was called on to answer a Table Topics question, the question was regarding an article in the newspaper. I wasn't familiar with the topic. I stood only long enough to say I knew nothing about that topic. I later learned I could ask for a different question or I could segway (I learned that word at a TM meeting) to a topic I **could** speak on.

Our club mentor, Billie Jones, taught us about meeting roles: Toastmaster, speakers, general evaluator, etc. Billie was a long-time Toastmaster, whose mother had also been a Toastmaster. We learned about different kinds of meetings we could try for fun; i.e., where we drew for roles after arriving at the meeting. Also we tried a backwards meeting where we began with reports from those with auxiliary roles and speech evaluations prior to hearing the speeches (not effective evaluations).

Image Masters club has had some speakers who progressed to high levels, such as Jesse Parent who won 2nd place at the national level; however, the benefit of winning awards may be surpassed by the benefit of personal growth at the club level in improving our speaking to a group and by building confidence through speaking and receiving feedback from our fellow members.

Our club won some ribbons to add to our banner for Toastmasters achievements. Now our personal and club accomplishments can easily be tracked online.

I remember some speeches that were given in the late 1980s - early 1990s. A rock climber gave a speech which I remember vividly when he demonstrated looking up...to see how far to go, and down ...to see how far up he was. Another member spoke on how some English words have several different meanings - which can make English confusing to learn. I gave a speech titled "Don't Bug Me" about being stung by a bee. I competed at an Area Contest with this speech.

Our club sometimes struggled to keep enough members – 8. In 2020 when we began having hybrid meetings, our membership began growing, probably because we could get members in other states, even one member in Sri Lanka. The online accessibility of our club meetings has been very helpful, even for those in Salt Lake City when we are not able to attend in person.

Image Masters Toastmasters Club

Image Masters Toastmasters Club #6875, Chartered in 1988 in Salt Lake City and for many years meeting at the Anderson-Foothill Library. We are happy to offer hybrid meetings, which is an option to attend our meetings in person as well as via Zoom. The in-person option is conducted at the Anderson-Foothill Library (downstairs conference room), 1135 South 2100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84108. We meet every Friday at 12 Noon (except on public holidays). Please visit: <https://imagemasters.toastmost.org/>



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