

Program Quality Director – Red Skelton

Here we are coming into the final stretch of our current Toastmaster year. The Area Directors have been elected and the excitement is building in each of your clubs on electing your new club officers that will be leading your club through the next Toastmaster year. It is great to look forward to what will happen but, we need to also keep up with what is currently happening in our District. The responsibilities of the Program Quality Director are;

- All aspects of education and training within the District
- Supporting quality club programming efforts
- Promoting the Distinguished Club Program
- Planning and executing the District Conferences

With that being said, I would like to say we have held two very successful District Officer Training days which included all Division and Area Directors. We had some great workshops and even had our Regional Advisor, Aletta Rochet, attend our second training day. Many Divisions had excellent education sessions before their Division contests. Holding workshops is a great opportunity for those attending the contest to learn from the experts and we did have some experts presenting.

District Educational Achievements

Clubs, Areas and Divisions

So far this year, we have 1 President Distinguished Division, Congratulation's Division F. We also have 35 Distinguished Clubs and 32 Select Distinguished clubs. We also have 11 President's Distinguished clubs. This means that the club has earned 9 or 10 Distinguished Club Program (DCP) points and awarded the highest club recognition. These clubs are as follows; with 9 DCP points are Blarney Club, Clonmel Toastmasters, Westport Club, Cambridge Speakers, Dublin Club, Greystones Club and Glasgow Toastmasters. The clubs that have reached 10 goals are; Lucan Club, East Herts Speakers, Castleknock Toastmasters Club, West Cork Toastmasters. Congratulations to all these clubs for reaching these goals.

Individual awards

District 71 has an outstanding record of Individuals educational awards. Currently, we have the following awards registered with Toastmaster International; 222 Competent Communicators, 154 Competent Leaders, 64 Advanced Communicator Bronze, 75 Advanced Leader Bronze, 28 Advanced Communicator Silver, 15 Advanced Leader Silver, 24 Advanced Communicator Gold and 17 High Performance Leadership projects. We also have 26 Triple Crown recipients which means that each of these members have achieved 3 or more educational awards this Toastmaster year. But, the biggest achievement must go to the 15 individuals that have earned their Distinguished Toastmaster award. These individuals are Yvonne Jordan, Dermot Carey, Irene Gerety, Peter Lawton, Gerard Dunn, Patricia O'Connell, Pauline McCabe, Colin Byford, Mary Reynolds, Alan Smyth, Constance Turner, Penny Haywood Calder, Elaine Beare, Karen O'Donnell and Colm Roe. A huge congratulations to these 15 individuals who represent < 1% of all Toastmasters who achieve DTM.

Conferences

We had a very successful Fall District Conference in Dublin Nov '16. The Dubhlinn conference featured many District toastmasters presenting workshops, A keynote by World Champion Craig Valentine and a keynote from our International Director Teresa Dukes. Fun, Friends and Frolics best describes this conference plus the added benefit of learning from some great speakers. Our Spring 2017 Conference in Manchester is fast approaching. The team are working hard to make this an enjoyable weekend for everyone. Besides a couple of keynotes and several workshops by our District members, we will be selecting our representative to the World Championship of Public Speaking in August. I know that everyone that attends will have a great time, hear some great speeches and possibly learn something along the way.

The next conference will be Fall 2017 at Sheffield. The team is working to make this conference a success. This will be the last fall conference as we will be going down to just one. This will allow the District team to concentrate on you, the member providing you support in everything you do.

The Spring 2018 conference will be held in Cork Ireland.

Red Skelton (Program Quality Director 2016 – 2017)