

ISSUE 04, October 2024



DISTRICT 71

NEWSLETTER

D71 BRANDBUILDERS



ENJOY | GROW | CELEBRATE

ROGER CHEETHAM

Current longest serving member of Sheffield Speakers

WWW.D71TOASTMASTERS.ORG

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FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Celebrating Our Unified Efforts



As you may be aware, we are approaching a momentous milestone – Toastmasters will soon celebrate 100 years since Dr. Ralph Smedley founded the first club in Santa Ana, California. From that humble beginning, we have grown into the global organisation we are today, touching lives across the world.

In District 71, we have a variety of exciting activities planned, culminating in a special online event on Tuesday, October 22nd. We would love to hear about the plans your club or Area has made to commemorate this occasion. Have you organised a special event to promote Toastmasters in your community? If so, please reach out to our PR Manager, Angela Afieghe, who can help amplify your efforts.

While this centennial marks the end of our first 100 years, it also signifies the beginning of a new era for Toastmasters. What steps will you take to ensure our continued success for the next century? Will you help launch a new club, or introduce new members to the Toastmasters family so they can benefit from the same personal growth you've experienced?

As we celebrate this milestone, it's an opportunity to reflect on our remarkable history while looking ahead to a bright future – much like the Roman god Janus (who January is named after), who symbolises both reflection and forward-thinking. Let's honour our past achievements and set our sights on the next 100 years of inspiring leaders and communicators.



FROM THE PRM'S DESK



Hello Fellow Toastmasters,

Welcome to the third edition of our District 71 Newsletter. As we continue to navigate a year of milestones and celebrations, one of the most significant is the 100th anniversary of Toastmasters International. This centennial marks a century of transformational leadership and communication, a journey we are all privileged to continue.

Reflecting on the past 100 years, we see a series of countless stories where individuals found their voices and leaders were made. It's a global legacy that speaks to the power of our organization to foster personal and professional growth. As part of this landmark year, our recent participation in the Toastmasters International Convention was a celebration of our history and a forward-looking gathering that set the stage for the next century of leadership development.

In this special year, our focus is on both honoring our rich history and embracing the future with new initiatives and opportunities. We aim to equip every member of District 71 with the tools and confidence to excel in their personal and professional lives. Expect more workshops, more engaging sessions, and more opportunities to grow with us.

Let's continue to build on the legacy of those who came before us while paving the way for those who will follow. Your dedication to improving yourselves and supporting each other is what makes our community so vibrant and successful.

Here's to a September of excellence in communication and leadership!

Warm regards,

Angela Afieghe

PR Manager, Toastmasters District 71

02 DISTRICT 71 TOASTMASTERS



DISTRICT 71 LEADERSHIP TEAM

DISTRICT
DIRECTOR

PROGRAM QUALITY
DIRECTOR

CLUB GROWTH
DIRECTOR



DANNY BANKS

MAIREAD DILLON

STEVE CAMPION

IMMEDIATE PAST
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER

FINANCE MANAGER

PUBLIC RELATIONS
MANAGER



ELIZABETH JORDAN

PAIGE SKELTON

WILLIAM KEARNEY

ANGELA AFIEGHE



DISTRICT 71

DIVISION DIRECTORS



TIM LEECH



NICHOLAS O'NEIL



PATRICIA GRAY



GEORGINA
HODGKINSON



RANDY EKAKITIE



KEVIN O'REILLY



OLGA BYRNE



FEMI OLULAJA



PAUL MCCARTHY



DISTRICT 71

PR AMBASSADORS



Rob Partridge
Division F



Claire Downie
Division S



Katuta Lumpa
Division H



**Aparna
Sasikumar**
Division N



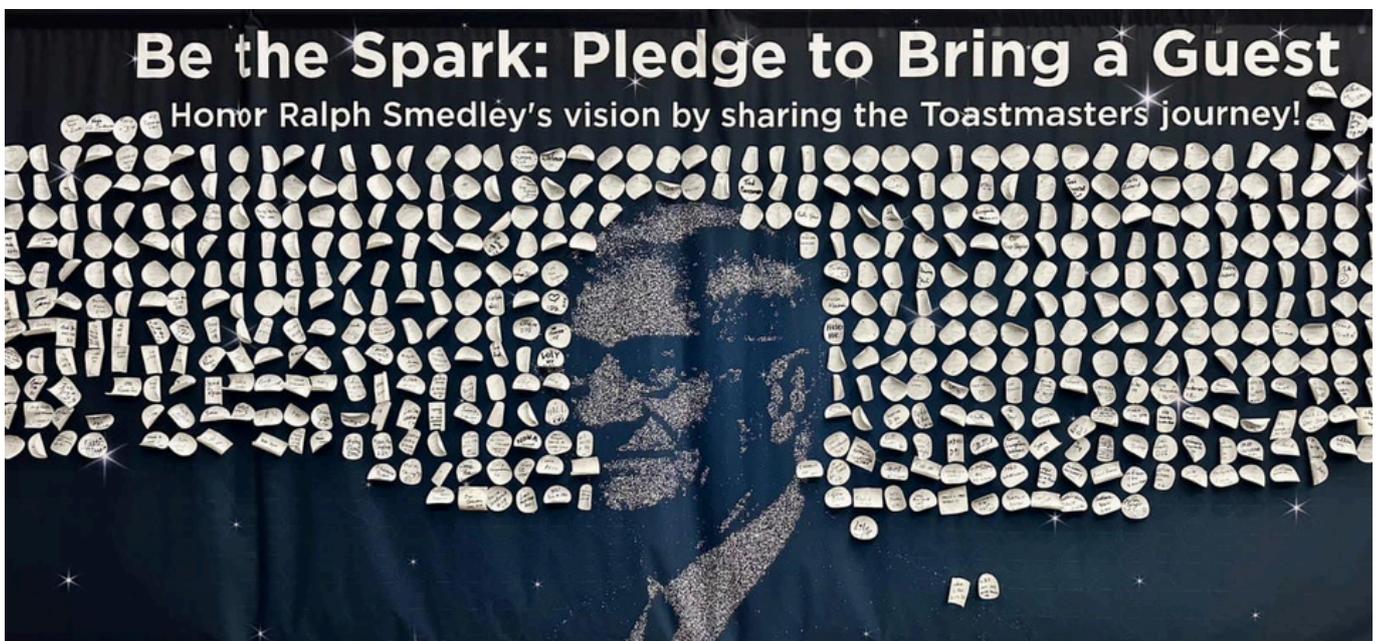
**Shantelle
York**
Division E



**Sudeepto
kushary**
Division M



Centennial Plus One Pledge



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH



**DISTRICT 71
QUARTERLY
AWARDS**

2nd October, 2024
07:00 PM (BST)

REGISTER NOW

D71 BRAND BUILDERS

**DISTRICT
AWARDS**

07 PM - 08 PM

WED
02



District 71 UK & Ireland
District Council

9th September, 2024 AT 7 PM

**DTM PATHWAYS
WITH PHIL HEATH**

07 PM - 08 PM

WED
09



District 71 Brand Builders Presents

**PROGRESSING
WITH PATHWAYS
SERIES**

Toastmasters for beginners, learn to manage the Rotemba system and pathways refresh sessions.

October 16, 2024
07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Patricia Reddy

#Toastmasters.org

**PROGRESSING WITH
PATHWAYS
SERIES**

07 PM - 08 PM

WED
16



**DISTRICT 71
CENTENARY CELEBRATION**
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF TOASTMASTERS

THE COORDINATOR
PAUL SIMON

Search The
A Centenary Celebration
Series

Search The
Our Legacy

Tuesday
21 October
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

BOOK BY THE PEOPLE AGAIN! CELEBRATORY TABLE TALKS

DISTRICT AWARDS & RECOGNITION ADDITIONAL ENDORSING ACTIVITIES

**CENTENARY
TOAST**

07 PM - 08:30 PM

WED
22



D71 BRANDBUILDERS
PRESENTS

**HOW TO GET FREE
MEDIA COVERAGE
FOR YOUR
TOASTMASTERS CLUB**

This masterclass is going to be focused on getting the most coverage for understanding what journalists really want.

DATE
23 October
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (BST)

CHANTAL COOKE

**PR
MASTERCLASS 004**

07 - 08:30 PM

THURS
23



Toastmasters Unplugged

26th October, 7:30pm

The Risk In our
Private Chat Series

Winning Anyway, Leading Anyway, Speaking Anyway

Just Jeff Drake as the 5th Winner with TEDx
Speaker Rick Heppner to discuss the
moving story of the year whose spirit
never changes is speech - the power.

Speaker 20th D71 Brand Builders

Rick Heppner
Jeff Drake

**TOASTMASTERS
UNPLUGGED 004**

07 PM - 08 PM

TUE
29

UPCOMING EVENT

DUBLIN SOUTH TOASTMASTERS

Dublin South Toastmasters presents a night of entertainment, storytelling and education to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Toastmasters International titled “The Art of Storytelling: Celebrating 100 Years of Toastmasters International” on November 19th, 2024 at the UCD Cinema. The event will explore the rich tradition of storytelling and its evolution over the past century, showcasing skills Toastmasters have honed in public speaking and communication.

The event will feature three renowned speakers sharing their expertise on the art and craft of storytelling, followed by six short story presentations by selected members of Toastmasters. With a focus on experiential learning and the power of storytelling, this event promises to inspire, educate, and entertain both toastmasters members and the general public.

Ticketing and Pricing

Tickets are now available for purchase through Eventbrite. Early bird tickets are available at €5, while regular tickets are priced at €10. Be sure to secure your spot early!



UPCOMING EVENT

GUARDIAN TOASTMASTERS CLUB, CORK

The President Dr Shirley Gallagher and members of Guardian Toastmasters Club Cork will be celebrating Toastmasters International's 100th anniversary on Tuesday, 22nd October 2024, at the City Hall by 18:00 (BST). Guests will include the Lord Mayor Cllr Dan Boyle, the club's immediate past president, Marilyn Latchford is visiting Cork from Canada, Dr. Dewi Vliexs will attend from the Irish agency, South East Energy Agency, who supports the EU Climate pact ambassadors. UCC's President, Professor John O'Halloran, will be showcasing UCC and its green agenda. Marilyn Latchford, the immediate past president, will share her vision for the club.



DISTRICT DIALOGUES

COACH YOUR TEAM COACH YOURSELF

It has been a wonderful summer of sport, from the annual pleasures of Wimbledon and Test Cricket to the return of the European Championships, Olympics and Paralympics.

There have been wonderful stories of personal and collective success, overcoming adversity and establishing both records and memories that will last a long time. Of course, there are also the significant and vital contributions of the teams behind the success - the volunteers, the families and the coaches. No individual can succeed on their own. Even the players in so called individual sports have a retinue of support staff to help .

Together Player and Coach Create a Plan and Clarify the Vision to help attain Specific Goals and reach Potential. This is done by a joint commitment, two way clear communication, lots of feedback, evaluation of events, observation and advice in a safe, supporting and trusting environment.

Do those qualities and ideals sound familiar to you? These fantastic benefits are available to all of us as individual Toastmaster members.

However, sometimes Toastmaster Clubs themselves need a hand up, some backup and helpful constructive advice from someone outside the Club. At the same time, Toastmaster Coaches are helped to develop their interpersonal skills and leadership capacities. You will not be surprised to know that this joint partnership of working together increases the probability in helping revitalise a club, increase membership and provide recognition for both Club and Coach.

As in all the best Partnerships, there are roles and responsibilities on both parties - nothing terribly onerous, but necessary guidelines to keep the project on track. This is a brilliant opportunity to learn from each other in collaborative manner

If your Club needs assistance, or if you feel you could help make a difference as a coach, there is further information available at d71clubcoaching@gmail.com where Patricia Radley or myself are available to help as part of CGD Steve Campion's Rekindler Program. We have a raft of support, advice and expertise available for you. There is also the www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central Club Coach Page.

DISTRICT DIALOGUES

So if you feel like you need a hand, or feel like you can give a hand, please don't hesitate to contact us.

James Finnegan and Patricia Radley Co-Chair Rekindlers District 71 Club Coach Program



James Finnegan



Patricia Radley

FEATURED CLUB EVENT

TOASTMASTERS CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY WITH MAYOR OF STEVENAGE

Representatives of Toastmasters International Clubs from all across Hertfordshire recently had the honour of meeting the Mayor of Stevenage, Councillor Jim Brown, and Councillor Arceno, as part of the Centenary celebration of Toastmasters International

Members from Hertfordshire Speakers, North Herts Speakers, Cornerstone Communicators and Stevenage Speakers took up the Mayors generous invitation to the formal setting of the Council Office issued when they met at the June Stevenage Open Day last June

The Mayor described his activities in the Stevenage community including his support for three local charities under his theme for the year “Come Together”, which was also the theme of last year’s Toastmasters National Conference in Liverpool. Cllr Arceno also shared her experience as last year’s Mayoress.

Immediate Past District Director, Elizabeth Jordan spoke about a century of service to the local community by the organisation and these clubs in particular with members using their skills learnt and developed at Toastmasters to contribute to all manner of community and voluntary organizations and activities



FEATURED CLUB EVENT

Many of the Toastmasters present, including Bob Ferguson DTM and Past Stevenage President Mandy Davis, spoke of their personal stories of the positive and continuous impact Toastmasters has had on their personal, professional and voluntary lives.

As a memento of this auspicious occasion, Mayor Jim Brown was presented with a copy of the book on the history of Toastmasters in District 71 written by Past International President Ted Corcoran



FEATURED CLUB EVENT

EAST GALWAY SPEAKERS - OPEN NIGHT



East Galway Speakers' President Martin Foran presents the best table topic award to guest Shane Keane at the club's successful open night.



East Galway Speakers' President, Martin Foran presents the Ice-breaker ribbon to Andrea Mullahy, who delivered a very impressive first speech at the club's successful open night.



Area 12 Director, Rob Partridge, presents East Galway Speakers' President, Martin Foran, with a certificate to mark the training of all seven club officers, at the club's successful open night.

Rob also won the award for the best speaker on the night, delivering a hilarious speech titled 'A Hitchhiker's Guide to Disaster,' from the Engaging Humour pathway.

FEATURED CLUB EVENT

MULLINGAR TOASTMASTERS (MULLINGAR LITERARY FESTIVAL 2025) OPEN NIGHT

Mullingar Toastmasters held an unforgettable Open Night, setting the stage for the highly anticipated Mullingar Literary Festival 2025. It was a night of shared passion for the spoken word, with an excellent turnout of like-minded people.

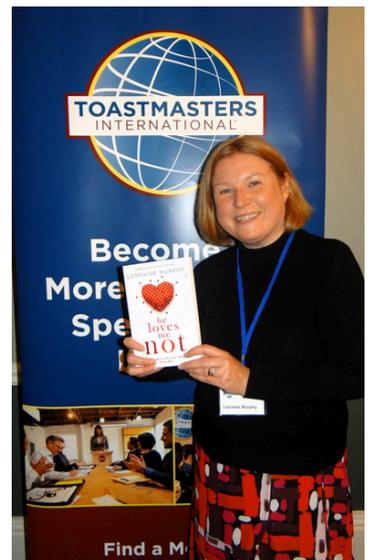
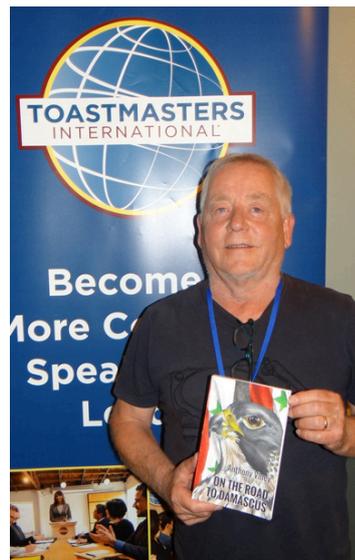
President Deirdre Bigley opened the evening with a warm welcome to an impressive 27 members and ten guests, filling the room with energy and excitement.

Pat Kenny then delivered a masterclass in public speaking, effortlessly combining humour, music, and encouragement. His leadership truly showcased the Toastmasters spirit.

We were thrilled to hear from Laurence Meehan, Chair of the upcoming Literary Festival, who got us all buzzing about what's to come. Brian, in the creative corner, stirred up even more excitement, promising that the festival would be "the best, the best, better than all the rest."

Tony Viney took us on a captivating journey through history, Derek Walsh wowed us with his clever wordplay, and Lorraine Murphy delivered a truly inspirational presentation, sharing three powerful life lessons. The evening was packed with wisdom and motivation!

The night wouldn't have been complete without Jacqui's brilliantly themed topics, sparking participation from both guests and members. Niamh, Pauline, Anke, Deirdre Lynch, Eilish John Phillip and Anasiria all added their unique insights, making the evening truly memorable.



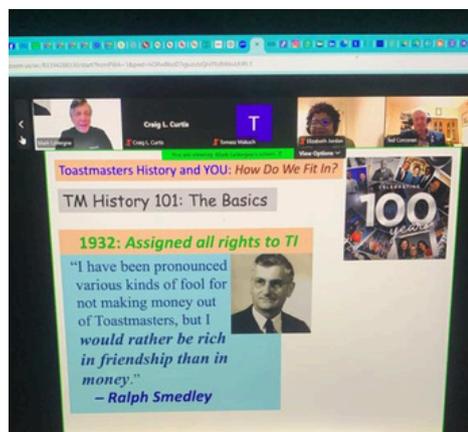
FEATURED CLUB EVENT

KILDARE TOASTMASTERS CLUB “CENTURY OF ELOQUENCE” OPEN NIGHT



An exciting evening of fun and education as Kildare Toastmasters celebrates the 100 years of Toastmasters International with an open night themed: “Century of Eloquence”. It was a night filled with inspiring speeches from renowned speakers like PIP Ted Corcoran & Mark Lavergne. There were engaging discussions and a shared commitment to leadership and communication excellence.

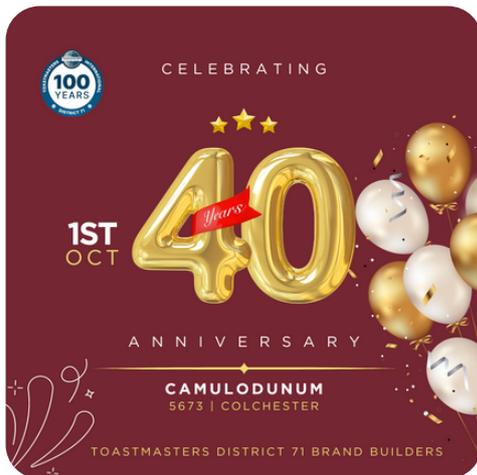
Kildare Toastmasters club is committed to empowering more voices and continuing this incredible legacy of Toastmasters international. Kildare toastmasters club is a hybrid club that meets every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month.



CLUB MILESTONE CELEBRATION



OCTOBER HONOREES



Camulodunum Club
1st October - 40 Years



Southside Speakers
2nd October - 18 Years



Tyne Online Club
14th October - 2 Years



Headingley Speakers
14th October - 5 Years



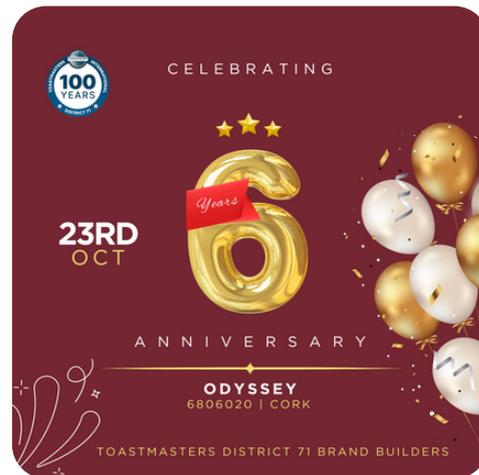
CLUB MILESTONE CELEBRATION



OCTOBER HONOREES



Bol BPZ Club
15th October - 5 Years



Odyssey Club
23rd October - 6 Years



Haymarket Toastmasters
23rd October - 12 Years



Luton Club
31st October - 6 Years



Central Club
31st October - 10 Years



FACE OF DISTRICT 71



Celebrating Roger Cheetham, Current Longest Serving Member of Sheffield Speakers

Roger Cheetham is the longest serving current member of Sheffield Speakers, which is a testament to both Roger and the Club, given when he came along in October 2018 it was with a view to attending just the one meeting, as a “means to an end”.

Roger had expressed an interest in being guest speaker, at a national networking event, external to Toastmasters, as Roger has an incredible story of resilience, relating to his own journey of going on to not only survive, but thrive, having himself become an attempted murder victim in 2013.



Unsurprising then that Roger named his not-for-profit organisation “Survive, Strive Thrive”, using his public speaking skills to inspire resilience in young people across the Country. Roger was informed by the event organisers that as he had no online showreel, he would need to attend his nearest Toastmasters Club, for them to evaluate the level of his public speaking.

Having won the award for Best Table Topics Speaker, during the meeting, and sharing this with the networking event, Roger went on to speak on their circuit, delivering the most impactful of speeches in Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Maidstone and Chelmsford. Roger’s speaking journey has even taken him as far as inspiring an audience of over 2,000 people from over 120 Countries from a physical stage in New Delhi, India!

Within Sheffield Speakers Roger has served as VPE, President and IPP during his time with us, and is now close to completing his second “Pathway”.

The length of time taken to do this reflects Roger’s ethos to give more to the club than he takes from it. Roger is now working hard towards becoming ‘Accredited Speaker’ within Toastmasters, and all at Sheffield Speakers wish Roger well with this and are proud to consider him our ‘elder’ of the Club!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



VPPR OF THE MONTH (September 2024)



**GIORGIA GIABARDO
COLTMAN**

**NOTTINGHAM ROBIN HOOD
SPEAKERS CLUB**

Since the start of the Toastmasters year, Giorgia's efforts has been primarily focused on Facebook, and we are excited to share some of the results from her hardwork:

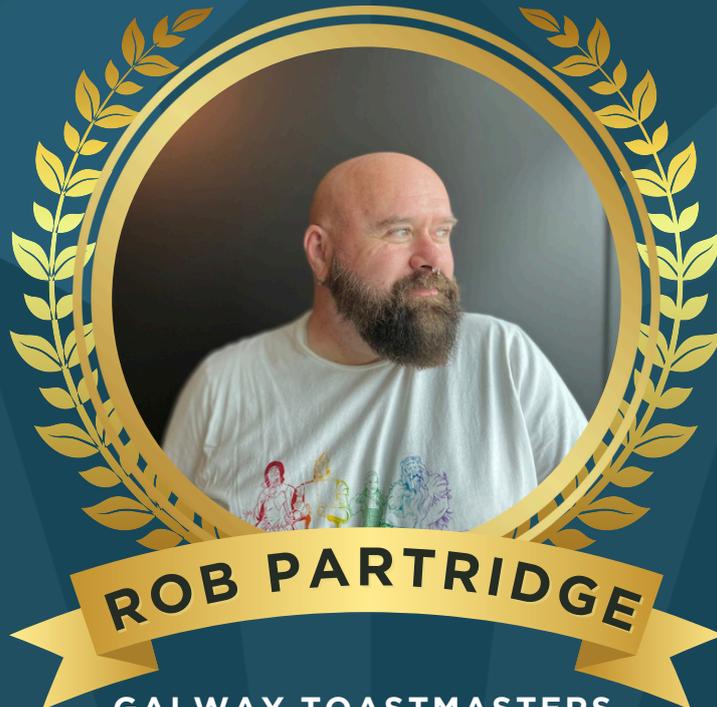
- From 08/09/24 to 28/09/24, her club added 30 new followers to thier Facebook page and 11 new members joined the club.
- She posted 23 times in September. One of the highlights was her #MyWhy video, which received 24 likes, 2 shares, and 344 plays. The guest night video also performed well, garnering 15 likes, 5 comments, 6 shares, and 48 plays.
- She drove the #MyWhy project initiative within her club, involving club members.
- She is also preparing for the "100 Years with 100K" and Centenary celebrations.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



PR AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH (September 2024)



GALWAY TOASTMASTERS
CLUB

Despite being a busy Area 12 Director, President of Galway Toastmasters and Vice President of Education for East Galway Speakers, Rob willingly volunteered for the Division F Brand Ambassador role.

With Division F Director, Kevin O'Reilly, Rob Partridge designs 'Informer,' the excellent monthly newsletter for Division F. Indeed, he recently generously shared PR posters they created in the District 71 VPPR WhatsApp group.

Currently, Rob is setting up VPPR WhatsApp groups for both Division F and Area 12. A very experienced and energetic Toastmaster, Rob Partridge was one of the first Toastmasters to showcase his #MyWhy video testimonial. He works tirelessly to promote Toastmasters at club, area, division and district level.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Celebrating Helen Keenan & Mary McGuinness

Helen Keenan and Mary McGuinness are both esteemed founding members of Tullamore Toastmasters.

In addition to their pivotal roles in establishing Tullamore Toastmasters, Helen played a significant part in the formation of the Athlone and Mullingar clubs. Their dedication and leadership have been instrumental in promoting public speaking and communication skills within the community. Mary is outgoing president and two time president of the club.



EDUCATIONAL CORNER

LEADERSHIP BY TOM FLYNN

Leadership is a perennial question that defies a clear and unambiguous answer. All around us we see “Good. Poor and Great leaders” Alexander the great was considered one of the greatest military leaders of his time. Col. James Fitzmaurice of the Irish Air Corps flew from Baldonnell in Dublin across the Atlantic Ocean 1928. Emiline Parkhurst was instrumental in getting the British Government to extend the voting rights to women 1918. What had they all in common? Vision and belief that anything is possible with the right attitude. The question as to whether leaders are born or made by circumstances is still debated. Like the “Single life, Marriage or Vocation” they all carry life changing roles.

Cultural influences play a strong role in the formation of a leader. On many levels “Leadership” is about having that innate capacity to “Act decisively. Set targets and achieve challenging goals. Leadership cannot be taught but it can be learned by the prevailing immediate circumstances. Leadership is about providing direction so that followers are excited about the journey and goals ahead and caring about the well-being of their followers.

Strong leadership skills involve clear communication and listening skills. Being responsive and empathise with their followers. Good leaders always reassure and inspire others when things go awry. Qualities of good leaders include the ability to “Motivate others. Be good listeners. Trustworthy. Competent, Decisive, have good communication skills and more.

Toastmasters have tremendous opportunities within their club setting to learn from others across the spectrum. A good leader can communicate effectively through body language, tone of voice and being decisive. A poor leader is one who is dogmatic, procrastinates, lacking in empathy skills and failing to recognise the merits in others.

Leadership roles are no place for personal egos or arrogance. You want to become a better leader then commit to developing your own personal qualities and skills.

Around the country Toastmaster clubs are now back in full swing so check them out for a new experience.

**TOM FLYNN, MEMBER OF
The West Awake Advanced
Toastmasters Club**



EDUCATIONAL CORNER

CONCUR AND CLAIMS

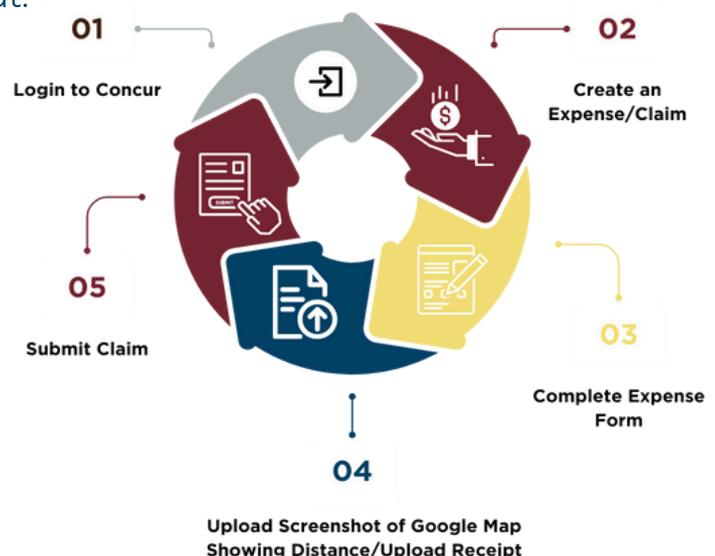
The main responsibility of the District Finance Manager is to serve the members of the district, ensuring that financial processes are smooth and transparent. And the number one tool at the disposal of all district members is the Concur system, an online platform that allows members to submit expense claims for reimbursements directly into their respective bank accounts.

Please contact the District Finance Manager for registration and setup assistance. Once this is completed, a member is easily able to submit their bank details to facilitate reimbursements. For using Concur there is an instruction document available for any member should they request it.

The primary use of Concur is to enable the district's Division and Area Directors to make claims allowed within their budgets in ways that serve their respective clubs and members. Typically, this will involve travel and organising expenses related to club and district officer training, as well as club visits. It should be noted that any district member can get set up on Concur; however, all claims must support the district's mission to foster growth and excellence. All claims must have screenshots/copies of receipts to prove payment. For travel, mileage will be reimbursed at a rate of £0.35 or €0.40 per mile. To prove mileage, simply upload a screenshot of your journey from Google Maps, clearly showing the route and distance.

Most importantly, Concur is there to serve the members of the district, and the District Finance Manager is there to help in this process. For any questions in this regard, please don't hesitate to reach out.

WILL KEARNEY
DISTRICT 71 FINANCE MANAGER



EDUCATIONAL CORNER

GROW YOUR CLUB

Here are five tips and ideas to help you bring in fresh faces and expand your club:

Host a Guest Evening or Taster Session: Dedicate an entire event to welcoming guests and explaining what Toastmasters is all about. Encourage every member to bring at least one guest to showcase the benefits of being part of the Toastmasters community.

Run a contest: No, not a speech contest... Have a friendly competition within your club to see who can invite the most guests to your meetings.

Create Flyers: Design a two-sided flyer that explains Toastmasters on one side and includes member testimonials on the other. Distribute these flyers to local businesses and organisations to spread awareness.

Engage with the Community: Be active in your community, attend local events, and network with potential members. Building connections outside the club can lead to valuable new member referrals and partnerships.

Learn about the guest: The most important tip is to take the time to speak with a potential new club member. Ask them what skills they hope to develop and how that will help them personally and professionally. You can then explain how the Toastmasters program (and your club) can help them achieve their goals.

Happy membership building!

Useful links:

<https://d71toastmasters.org/events/roadshows-up-and-running-with-james-finnegan>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/magazine/magazine-issues/2022/dec/medias/files/brand-materials/canvatemplates.pdf>

STEVE CAMPION
CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR



GUEST CONTRIBUTION

HOW TOASTMASTERS PREPARES YOU FOR SUCCESS BEYOND YOUR CLUB

When I first became a Toastmaster, I got a heck of a deal. I got a 2-for-1 membership. Why? Because it was my alter ego and me joining. You see, my alter ego could speak in public without breaking a sweat. I, on the other hand, could barely get through a group conversation. So, I let my alter ego take over. It may not seem like a Herculean effort, but after each meeting, I was exhausted. I realized that if I wanted real success, I needed to become the other me all the time.

Toastmasters gave me the tools to do just that. From the very first speech, I was pushed out of my comfort zone and forced to rely less on my alter ego and more on my true self. Every prepared speech, Table Topic, and evaluation helped me become more comfortable and confident, not just at the podium but in every conversation.

This is the magic of Toastmasters—it equips you with real-world skills that go beyond the club. Whether you're presenting in a meeting, networking, or simply expressing your ideas clearly, Toastmasters helps you succeed in all areas of life. The supportive community, the structured learning and the constant opportunities for growth create a powerful transformation.

If you're ready to go from relying on an alter ego to becoming the best version of yourself, Toastmasters is the place to start.

AL GIBSON

South Loop Speak Freaks Club #7079
District 103 Toastmasters International



PR PIONEERS

SPOTLIGHT ON VPPRS



Barry **Lane**

Division C | Area 16 | Castleknock Toastmasters

Barry took to the airwaves on 92.5 Phoenix FM, promoting the benefits of Toastmasters International.

I joined Castleknock Toastmasters back in 2004 to gain more confidence when delivering presentations in the workplace. From the very start I found the club to be a warm and welcoming place filled with kind and generous people. I have met and learned from many inspirational people in Division C such as Luanne Kent and Ted Corcoran whose encouragement has benefitted me enormously. My journey through Toastmasters has taken me to DTM and to the position of Division Director, but it is the experiences with fellow members that keep me coming back. Being a Toastmaster can open so many doors and every day's a school day.

Niamh **Tubridy**

Division F | Area 9 | Mullingar Toastmasters

VPPR Mullingar Toastmasters

I first heard about Toastmasters through someone at work and thought I might give it a try. I attended a meeting of my local Toastmasters club in October of 2022. I really enjoyed the atmosphere and the supportive environment and I officially joined in January of 2023.

Last year I participated in the Tabletopics competition where I got as far as Division and this year I have taken on the role of VPPR on the committee. I'm hoping to work with the committee and on the brilliant work that has already been done to raise the profile of the club and let people know what we are all about.



PR PIONEERS

SPOTLIGHT ON VPPRS



Charles

Malone

Division Director of the Year 2023-2024

Division F | Area 9 | Tullamore Toastmasters

I have been a member of Tullamore Toastmasters for the last 10 years. You might ask me, why did I join Toastmasters? A good friend of mine Brendan Harte, asked me to be his best man, before this I never made a speech in my life. I was in a lot of organizations, like Macra na Feirme, I helped to organise different events, but one thing I avoided like the plague was public speaking, but when Brendan asked me to be his best man I didn't know what to do. I was lucky to talk to a good friend who suggested I give Toastmasters a go. 9 months later, I did the best man speech, it went brilliant. In Toastmasters I have held several leadership roles and also have opportunity to do my own podcast, called Charles Listens, you can get it on Spotify. I am very proud of it.

Mary

Kilbane

Division F | Area 9 | Longford Toastmasters

Promoted the Perks of Toastmasters International on Shannonside Radio Station

My Toastmasters journey started in 2019 when I was introduced by a friend whom I made through Dyspraxia Ireland and who passed away sadly in 2022. She recognised the talent and flair I had for something like this. I attended Longford Toastmasters with her as a guest and since then I never looked back. I have been a member of five different clubs including Longford which I have been VPE and now I am President. I joined East Galway Speakers through participation in a contest as a counter or judge and was invited to join the other clubs by members who appeared as guests in Longford. I joined as a guest first then I became a fully fledged member. Since then I have carried out pathway levels and different jobs at the meetings and I have even came second and third in various topic and speech contests



PR PIONEERS

ROTARY AND TOASTMASTERS FORGING RELATIONSHIPS

Fingal Toastmasters supporting the Rotary conference in Dunlaoghaire. Fingal boasts of several members who are both Toastmasters and Rotarians, including PIP Ted Corcoran, DTM Bernadette Mulvey, Paul Egan and DTM Ann Gibson.



PURPOSE PIONEERS

JOIN THE JOURNEY

Join Our Visionary Quest for Club Growth!

Step up and be part of an extraordinary movement within District 71 as we embark on a groundbreaking strategy to create new clubs! This is your chance to develop your skills, collaborate with visionary leaders, and play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Toastmasters in our community.

Seize this opportunity to transform your personal and professional landscape. Let's innovate, inspire, and drive success together. To join, send an email to clubgrowthdirector@d71toastmasters.org and contribute to a legacy of excellence and achievement!

Join the Brand Builders Team!

Dive into a world of innovation, connect with fellow leaders, and leave your mark on our district's legacy in this Centennial year.

Supercharge your Toastmasters experience by joining our elite District Public Relations team! This is your golden opportunity to master new skills, influence our community, and accelerate your Pathways projects. Don't just participate—lead and inspire! Send an email to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org to sign up today and transform your Toastmasters journey into an extraordinary adventure.



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

80/20 Renewals

Description

Encourage your members to re-commit to their growth and learning, and support your club at the same time

Award

€50 / £43

How to claim

Clubs where at least 80% of their club members renew by the 20th September 2024 are eligible for this award.

Accomplish this goal and your club will be eligible to have its expenses reimbursed, up to €50 / £43. Eligible expenses include flyers, promotional items, meeting room hire, and services such as Zoom and Meetup.

The Club Growth Director will identify the qualifying clubs using the Toastmasters International dashboard reports. The 80% target is calculated by comparing the number of paid (renewed) members on 20 September 2024 with the club's base membership on 1 July 2024. The first 20 clubs that qualify are eligible to receive the award.



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

VPPR OF THE MONTH:

Are you ready to showcase your creativity, engage our community, and take your club's public relations to new heights? This is your chance to shine and bring €50 to your club!

How to Participate:

Every month, we're looking for a Vice President of Public Relations who stands out by boosting the club's visibility, engaging members, and innovating communication strategies. If you've got what it takes, dive into this exciting challenge!

Why Join the Challenge?

You will be the winning VPPR gain recognition across the district and increase your PR skills. You will also secure an additional €50 for our club, which can be used to enhance our Toastmasters experience & complete your pathways project!

Get Involved:

Start planning your strategies, engage with your club members, and let's make some noise about the great work you are doing!



VPPR OF THE MONTH



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

Social Media Post of the Quarter Contest!

Ready to showcase your creativity and social media savvy? Enter our Social Media Post of the Quarter contest and you could win **€50** for your club!

Contest Details:

Create a post that embodies the spirit of Toastmasters, engages the community, and reflects your club's unique vibe. Whether it's an inspirational quote, a success story, a clever meme, or an event recap, make it impactful and make it shine!

Winning Criteria:

1. Creativity and Originality: Bring something new and exciting to the table. Surprise us!
2. Alignment with Toastmasters Values & Brand: Your post should be compliant with the TM brand, and embody and promote the values of leadership, communication, and personal growth.
3. Engagement: We're looking for likes, shares, comments, and overall interaction. Get the community talking!
4. Visual Appeal: Make sure your post is visually captivating. Use high-quality images or graphics that grab attention.
5. Message Clarity: Your post should communicate clearly and effectively, delivering its message in a powerful way.

How to Participate:

Simply tag your club's official social media account in your post and use the hashtag **#D71BrandBuilders** and **#D71PostOfTheQuarter**. Posts must be made within the current quarter to qualify. Send a link of your post to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

PR Ambassador of the Month Award:

Are you ready to elevate your Division's profile and showcase your PR prowess? Join the exciting PR Ambassador of the Month challenge and stand a chance to win €50 for your Division!

What's the Challenge?

Each month, we're on the lookout for a PR Ambassador who goes above and beyond to enhance your Division's visibility, engage the VPPRs & community, craft compelling narratives that resonate far and wide & comply with TM Brand guidelines.

Why Participate?

This is your opportunity to make a significant impact, gain recognition across our Toastmasters community, and bring a €50 bonus to help fund Division initiatives. Whether it's through innovative social media campaigns, dynamic press releases, or engaging community outreach, your efforts will not go unnoticed!

How to Win:

Show us how you can lead PR efforts that captivate and inspire. Excellence in communication, creativity in execution, and measurable impact on our community engagement will crown you as the PR Ambassador of the Month.



PR AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

Brand Builders Incentive Alert!

Calling all Toastmasters! Ready to put your event planning and publicity skills to the test? Host an event for the 100th anniversary that not only captivates but also attracts a crowd! If your event draws 20 or more attendees and gets featured in the local newspaper or on the radio on or before **October 15th** 2024, your club wins **€100!**

Incentive Details:

1. Organize an Event: Plan and execute an event that draws at least 20 attendees.
2. Capture the Moment: Take photos and videos to document the event's success.
3. Gain Media Coverage: Get your event published in a local newspaper or broadcast on a local radio station.
4. Submit Your Proof: Send in your pictures, videos, and a copy of the media coverage to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org to claim your prize.

Deadline: All events must be held and submissions received by **October 15th**. Make sure your event stands out—this is your club's chance to shine and earn €100!

Note: Each club can claim this incentive once, so make it count! This is a fantastic opportunity to boost your club's visibility, engage the community, and showcase the vibrant spirit of Toastmasters.

Get Creative, Get Noticed:

This is more than just a contest; it's a chance to build our brand and strengthen our presence in the community. Let's pull together, create an unforgettable event, and maybe even make headlines!

Ready to be a Brand Builder? Start planning today and let's make a mark that lasts!



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

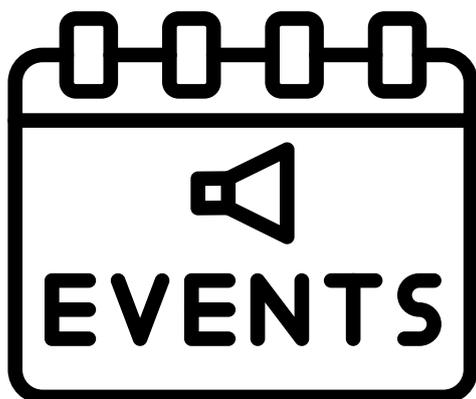
Open Night Incentive

Calling all Toastmasters! Put your event planning and publicity skills to the test. Host an open night within the toastmaster year that not only captivates but also attracts a crowd! If your event draws 20 or more attendees and gets featured in the local newspaper or on the radio, your club wins **€50!**

Incentive Details:

1. Organize an Event: Plan and execute an event that draws at least 20 attendees.
2. Capture the Moment: Take photos and videos to document the event's success.
3. Gain Media Coverage: Get your event published in a local newspaper or broadcast on a local radio station.
4. Submit Your Proof: Send in your pictures, videos, and a copy of the media coverage to claim your prize.

Note: Each club can claim this incentive once, so make it count! This is a fantastic opportunity to boost your club's visibility, engage the community, and showcase the vibrant spirit of Toastmasters.



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

#MyWhy Incentive: Share Your Story, Win €50 for Your Club!

Are you ready to inspire and engage? Participate in our #MyWhy drive by sharing a one-minute video detailing why you joined Toastmasters and why you continue to be a part of our incredible community. The most engaging story of the month will win €50 for their club and gain special recognition!

How to Participate:

1. Create Your Video: In one minute, tell us your Toastmasters journey. What drew you to join? What keeps you coming back? Make it heartfelt and inspiring!
2. Post & Tag: Share your video on social media using the hashtag #MyWhy. Make sure to tag our official page so we don't miss it!
3. Engage Your Audience: Encourage likes, shares, and comments. The post with the most engagement wins!

Prize Details:

The participant whose video garners the most engagement for the month will not only bring €50 to their club but will also be featured in our district communications, showcasing their story and their club.

Deadline: Get your videos posted and rack up engagement throughout the month. Submit the link by email to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org by the 28th of the month. We'll tally the results and announce the winner at month's end.

Why Join the #MyWhy Drive?

This is your chance to highlight the impact Toastmasters has had on your life, connect with others on a similar journey, and contribute directly to your club's success. Let's fill our community with powerful stories and reasons that keep us all coming back for more.

Ready to share your why? Grab your phone, record your story, and let's show the world the power of our Toastmasters community!



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

Celebrate 100 Years with 100 Words!

As we approach the monumental centennial celebration of District 71, we invite you to be a part of a unique literary tribute: #100 Poems or 100 Stories in 100 Words. Share your creativity, encapsulate your experiences, and see your work published in our special Centennial eBook!

What We're Looking For:

We need 100 poems or stories, each precisely 100 words long. Whether it's a poem that moves the soul or a story that captures a moment, your words will contribute to a century of speaking, leading, and inspiring.

How to Participate:

1. Write It: Craft a poem or a story in exactly 100 words.
2. Submit It: Send your entries via email to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org with the subject line "100 Words Entry."
3. Get Published: The first 100 entries will be featured in our exclusive Centennial eBook, a testament to our district's rich history and vibrant community.

Why Join?

This is your chance to be part of District 71's legacy. Imagine your work published alongside fellow Toastmasters, creating a mosaic of voices that celebrates a century of growth and achievement.

Deadline:

Don't miss out! Make sure your submissions are in by **15th October 2024**. Let's make history together with words that echo the spirit of our district!



CHALLENGES & REWARDS

Shine at the D71 Conference in Solihull on Us!

Calling all aspiring writers and Toastmasters enthusiasts! Here's an exciting opportunity to showcase your talents and potentially enjoy the thrill of our next D71 Conference in Solihull – **absolutely free!**

How to Enter:

Simply contribute an article, story, or any creative content to our district newsletter. Whether it's sharing insights, club successes, personal achievements in Toastmasters, or thoughtful reflections, your contribution not only enriches our community but also earns you a chance to win!

Prize Details:

Win a Free Ticket to the D71 Conference in Solihull worth **£300**. Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of one of the year's most anticipated Toastmasters events.

Drawing Process:

Every contributor's name will be entered into a draw. At the close of the submission period, one lucky winner will be selected to receive a free ticket to the conference, where you can network, learn, and celebrate your Toastmasters journey.

Don't Miss Out:

This is your chance to shine and be recognized. The more you contribute, the richer our newsletter becomes, and the closer you get to experiencing the excitement of the D71 Conference on us!

Ready to contribute and win? Submit your entries now to prmanager@d71toastmasters.org and join us in making the Toastmasters District 71 newsletter a source of pride and information.

Let your words take you places!



PR TIPS & TRICKS

Ten Top Tips for a Successful Open Night

October means open nights in Toastmasters' clubs. Christina Hession, VPPR with East Galway Speakers, gives her top tips.

- (1) Have a theme for your open night. Try to get members to embrace it in speeches, topics and in the word of the night.
- (2) Pitch members' overcoming obstacle stories to local media. They love them! Invite local journalists & photographers along. When they provide coverage, always say thanks!
- (3) Can you invite a local celebrity along/get a good luck message from them on social media?
- (4) Reach out to local cultural & creative groups – writer' groups, drama & musical societies etc.
- (5) Think about connecting with people who speak for a living/have to deliver presentations at work. Have you got teachers amongst your members? Contact the local union branches.
- (6) Connect with people in your community interested in self development e.g. life coaches, alternative health practitioners etc.
- (7) Consider people who are spokespersons for local voluntary organisations and clubs. What about local football, soccer and rugby clubs? Surely the captains of their senior teams could do with learning some speech skills?
- (8) Don't forget about offline publicity. Put your posters on bulletin boards, counter tops and waiting rooms locally. What about church newsletters or the newsletters of large employers in your area?
- (9) Use member testimonials on your social media channels.
- (10) Ensure your open night is well sign-posted and that you have a greeter or two to welcome guests.

WRITTEN BY

**CHRISTINA HESSION,
VPPR EAST GALWAY SPEAKERS
TOASTMASTERS CLUB**



POETIC PALETTE

SOMEONE

If "someone" told me I would have the chance,
To join a family to help enhance,
My voice, to grow, my confidence,
I would be dubious and ask for evidence,

If "someone" told me I would make friends,
Who water my soul and to my garden tend,
Who see a gift and push me to extend,
I would skeptical and not easily bend,

If "someone" told me one day I would be,
A leader, a voice, with personality,
Able to step into fear with sword and shield,
I am telling you now, I may not believe,

But if the past me, could now see,
What I have become,
what I have achieved,
The dreams I've begun,
Only then would he see,
That this "someone" was a visionary,

Now I am someone telling those of a chance,
To enhance and grow their confidence,

And you are that someone, tell others of friends,
Like gardeners they tend, and help to extend,

Yes we are that someone that you don't believe,
Dubious of our plans and what motivates we,

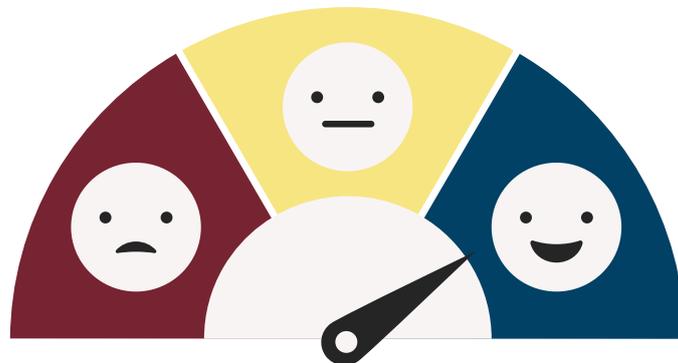
But take the leap of faith and like me,
One day you may believe,
One day you may see...



PRINCE ACQUAH
DISTRICT 71 POET-IN-RESIDENCE



FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

HELP US IMPROVE YOUR NEWSLETTER

We're always striving to make our newsletter more engaging and valuable for you. Your feedback and suggestions play a crucial role in shaping the content and ensuring it meets your needs and interests. Here's how you can contribute:

Share Your Thoughts:

What did you enjoy in this issue? What would you like to see more of? Your insights help us tailor the newsletter to better serve our community.

Suggest Future Content:

Have ideas for articles, features, or topics? Would like to suggest clubs or individuals that are outstanding and deserve to be recognised? Let us know! Your suggestions can help us create content that resonates with you.

How to Provide Feedback:

Email your feedback and suggestions to prmanager@D71toastmasters.org or send us a message on our social media platforms. We're always listening!

Photo of the Month:

Submit your favourite moments captured during club meetings or events. The best photo will be featured in next month's newsletter!

Join the Conversation:

Engage with fellow members by discussing your favourite articles and sharing your thoughts on our [Facebook Group](#). Let's build a vibrant and interactive community!

THANKS TO OUR EDITORS!

Angela Afieghe
Folasanmi Ajayi

Share with other members and non-member friends/colleagues that you know.

THANKS FOR READING!

