

January 2026



DISTRICT 71

NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL ADVISOR VISIT TO SCOTLAND



6-9th February 2026

GROWING SCOTLAND TOGETHER

WWW.D71TOASTMASTERS.ORG

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Regional Directors Visit to Scotland
Training session for all members of Scotland's clubs at 10am in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh

**SAT
07
FEB**



Speak Easy Toastmasters Open Night
Join Speak Easy Toastmasters Mallow for our Open Night on Thursday 22nd January.

**THURS
22
JAN**


ONLINE EVENT

Pathways Champions Support Hour
Join our team of Pathways Champions to find out how to get the most out of Pathways, the Toastmasters educational program

**FRI
30
JAN**


ONLINE EVENT

District Executive Committee

**TUES
17
FEB**


Club Officer Training
ONLINE EVENT

**Club Officer Connect
(part of Elevate Club Officer Training)**
Club Officer Connect sessions is help club officers share ideas, solve challenges and network with each other.

**SAT
24
JAN**


Club Officer Training
ONLINE EVENT

**Club Officer Connect
(part of Elevate Club Officer Training)**
Club Officer Connect sessions is help club officers share ideas, solve challenges and network with each other.

**WED
28
JAN**


Club Officer Training
ONLINE EVENT

**Club Officer Connect
(part of Elevate Club Officer Training)**
Club Officer Connect sessions is help club officers share ideas, solve challenges and network with each other.

**TUES
03
FEB**

For details and to register for these events
and all the other District Events visit
<https://d71toastmasters.org/home/events/>



UPCOMING EVENTS



ONLINE EVENT

Becoming an Accredited Speaker

Clare Crowther, TI Accredited Speaker, will explain how to become an Accredited Speaker – the requirements and timeline for application.

WED
04
FEB



ONLINE EVENT

Menti/Mentimeter
Ask your audience tool

Discover how Toastmasters and project professionals are using Mentimeter to move from engagement to insight to action

THURS
08
FEB

For details and to register for these events
and all the other District Events visit
<https://d71toastmasters.org/home/events/>



DISTRICT 71

LEADERSHIP TEAM

DISTRICT
DIRECTOR



MAIREAD DILLON

PROGRAM QUALITY
DIRECTOR



STEVE CAMPION

CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR



KEVIN O'REILLY

IMMEDIATE PAST
DISTRICT DIRECTOR



DANNY BANKS

ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER



MAURA MEANEY

FINANCE MANAGER



WILLIAM KEARNEY

PUBLIC RELATIONS
MANAGER



STALLONE SAMUEL

MESSAGE FROM MAIREAD DILLON **DISTRICT DIRECTOR**



Hello fellow Toastmasters!

I wish you a very happy 2026 and that the year will bring you good health and a new lease of life!

We have many fantastic events to look forward to this Toastmasters' year. The highlight of the next 6 months will be The Rose Conference taking place in my home town of Tralee in Co. Kerry. James Finnegan, our Conference chair, has been working tirelessly within a very tight timeframe to produce a vibrant and innovative event. It promises to be a wonderful conference. January is a great time to book a conference ticket, as you can take advantage of the early bird rate.

Another important event will take place in Edinburgh on the 7th of February. Lilian Shaftacola, our Region 10 advisor, along with the District Leadership team will run a training session for all members of Scotland's clubs at 10am in the Radisson Blu Hotel, followed by a strategy meeting that afternoon, led by Lilian, to brainstorm how to grow membership in Scotland. Division S Director, Ronnie Smith, has many ambitious ideas and it is going to be a collaborative and dynamic event. Please come along and join us.

This is also the time of the year when you may be considering what you like to achieve in the next 12 months. Danny Banks IPDD and chair of the District Leadership Committee, is seeking leadership nominations for the 2026/27 Toastmaster year. Based on my own experience, stepping into a leadership role is exceptionally enjoyable and expands your horizons. Why not chat with Danny over the next couple of weeks to see how you can participate in the leadership team.

Finally, I thank you for your service to your club and I look forward to meeting many of you in person over the next 6 months.

Mairead Dillon
District Director

MESSAGE FROM STEVE CAMPION PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR



Elevate: Train like it matters (because it does)

Most of us don't admire film heroes because they "got lucky". We admire them because, when the big moment arrives, they fall back on their training.

In *Rocky*, progress is built on routine—showing up, again and again, until the fundamentals become automatic. In *The Karate Kid*, the "boring" repetitions only make sense later, when pressure hits and the skills are suddenly there. And in *The King's Speech*, confidence doesn't appear first; it's earned through disciplined practice coaching and commitment.

That's the logic behind second-round Club Officer Training. The first round gets you started. The second round is where you refine, troubleshoot what you've discovered in the role, and build on your achievements.

We're continuing our innovative approach with Elevate, where you can elevate your own skills and your club's success at the same time. It has practical ideas that are relevant to your club and that you can apply immediately, along with great networking and reassurance that you're not on your own.

If you're a club officer, please complete your second-round training now. Details, options, and incentives are on the District website at d71toastmasters.org/cot. There are additional incentives for clubs completing training by 31 January, and the final deadline is the end of February. The earlier you train, the earlier your members feel the impact.

Let's Elevate together!

Steve Campion
Program Quality Director

MESSAGE FROM KEVIN O'REILLY CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR



Five Months. One Incredible Opportunity. Let's Make It Count!

Hello Toastmasters,

Can you believe it? We have just five months left in the Toastmasters 2025/26 year before we pass the baton to the next leadership team. Five months. Roughly 150 days. About 20 club meetings. And huge potential sitting right in front of us.

So here's my question to you (and I mean this in the most positive, energising way possible):

How do you intend to spend your next five months in Toastmasters?

Will they fly by in a blur of speeches, roles, and evaluations?

Or could they become the most intentional, impactful, and growth-focused months of your Toastmasters journey so far?

Your Journey... Supercharged

For many members, these final months are a golden window. A chance to:

- Stretch just a little further outside your comfort zone
- Say "yes" to opportunities you might normally park for later
- Build momentum toward your next educational or leadership goal

And for those of you with your eye on that coveted DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster) award, this is where things get really exciting.

Growth Is Not Just Personal

What if part of your growth over the next five months was about helping others start their journey?

- Inviting one more guest to your club
- Having a conversation with a colleague, neighbour, or community group about Toastmasters
- Supporting your club to grow its membership and strengthen its future

Because here's the magic of Toastmasters:

When we grow people, clubs grow. When clubs grow, leaders are made.

MESSAGE FROM KEVIN O'REILLY CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR (CONT.)



What About Starting Another Club?

Now, let me plant a little seed.

Have you ever thought about the impact of starting a new club?

Not “doing it all tomorrow.”

Not “adding stress to your life.”

But simply starting the conversation

Exploring the idea.

Testing the water.

Seeing who else might be interested.

Opening a new club can:

- Directly support your DTM journey
- Multiply the opportunities for others to grow
- Leave a lasting legacy long after this Toastmasters year ends

And the best part? You don't do it alone. Support, guidance, and experience are all around you.

Five Months. Big Questions. Bold Choices

So as we head into the final stretch of the year, I'll leave you with this:

- What would make you proud when you look back on this Toastmasters year?
- Who could you help grow?
- And what bold step might you take before we pass the baton?

Let's make these last five months energised, intentional, and impactful for ourselves, our clubs, and the future members who haven't found us yet.

Here's to finishing strong. Here's to growth.

And here's to making the most of every meeting between now and June.

Warm regards,

Kevin O'Reilly

Club Growth Director

STALLONE-OBARAEMI SAMUEL

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER



Fellow Toastmasters

It is an honour to greet you in our first District newsletter of the year. I'm Stallone-Obaraemi Samuel, your Public Relations Manager for District 71. My mandate is simple and ambitious: to help our District speak with one clear, confident voice, so that our members, clubs, and leaders are seen, understood, and inspired. I offer my sincere respect to our District Director and the District Leadership Team (DLT) for their trust, guidance, and partnership as we set this standard together.

What we are working on now

Over the past weeks we have moved from intention to execution. We have designed a district-wide PR operating model that fits a volunteer environment but delivers professional outcomes: clear roles, a content calendar, quality checks, and reporting that the whole leadership can rely on. This includes platform health checks, a Strategy Pack, and a Social Media Operating Model with defined workflows and SLAs; so our communications are timely, on brand, and measurable.

In parallel, we are working the Club Growth Director and his team to launch a 30-day campaign to stabilise club visibility and retention and build the backbone for a 90-day evergreen plan that keeps momentum between major events. Clubs will see branded Canva templates, press-ready formats, and newsletter workflows that reduce effort and lift quality across the board. These assets are designed to be reused, adapted locally, and passed forward; a sustainable PR toolkit, not a one-off splash. The key here is that they will be housed in one vault.

We are also formalising governance and approvals: who posts on district channels, how content is checked, and what the turnaround times are. This protects our brand, accelerates delivery, and gives VPPRs and club leaders the confidence that their stories will be handled consistently and professionally.

STALLONE-OBARAEMI SAMUEL

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER



What you will see before the end of the Toastmasters year (June 2026)

- Consistent cadence across channels
 - Expect a steady rhythm on our website, email newsletter, LinkedIn and Facebook, with short video, carousels and recognition stories woven around contests, training, and district milestones. Each post will follow an agreed calendar, brand checklist, and accessibility standards.
- A monthly newsletter that runs like clockwork
 - We are operating a simple intake-to-publish workflow (content by the 10th, approvals by the 15th, publish by 25th), with a central submission form, shared repository, and analytics after each issue. The aim is reliability and relevance every month.
- Press & media readiness
 - We are assembling spokesperson guidance, press-release templates, and a basic media list so District 71 can place stories with confidence, traditional outlets and digital platforms alike. Post-appearance reporting will track coverage and message pull-through.
- Measurement that informs action
 - Monthly KPI packs will show reach, engagement, adoption of assets by clubs, and SLA performance. These insights will drive small, frequent improvements, as our commitment is learning and adjusting in the open.
- Handover and sustainability
 - In June, we will deliver a Handover & Sustainability Pack, including templates, workflows, dashboards, and a concise “how-we-work” guide, so the next team inherits a running system, with parts carefully put together.

STALLONE-OBARAEMI SAMUEL

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER



How we will work with you

This programme succeeds only if we co-create it with our stakeholders. We are inviting Division and Area Directors, VPPRs, club coaches, and programme quality leaders to shape content priorities, share stories, and pressure-test processes. You will see clear submission routes, defined service levels, and open feedback loops. In short: no black boxes, just shared standards, shared learning, and shared wins.

A word of appreciation and a call to action

To the PR team; Brand, Social, Press, Creative, Newsletter, Web, Analytics, thank you. Your professionalism, patience, and perseverance are turning good intentions into a dependable operating model. You are building the foundation on which future teams will stand. I see your effort, and I am grateful.

To every club and leader in District 71, here is how you can help us help you:

- Use the templates and submit content via the newsletter form- it speeds everything up and protects our brand.
- Share your outcomes (coaching wins, member milestones, workplace impact)- we'll amplify them district-wide.
- Hold us to our SLAs- and tell us where to improve. Continuous improvement is built into the model.

In alignment with our District Director's vision and the rest of the DLT's stewardship, we will keep our focus on what matters most: communications that strengthen retention, elevate our clubs, and grow the District consistently, sustainably, and together.

With Warmth,
Stallone-Obaraemi Samuel
Public Relations Manager, District 71

THE ROSE CONFERENCE

D71 District Conference

Let Your Confidence Bloom at The Rose Conference 8-10th May 2026

It is my proud privilege and pleasure, on behalf of the District 71 Conference Team, to invite you to The Rose Conference to be held at the Rose Hotel Tralee, Co. Kerry, Republic of Ireland on 8th – 10th May 2026.

There will be

- Three District Contest Finals
 - Table Topics, Evaluations and the International Speech,
- Innovative, Imaginative and Inspirational Workshops
- Guest Speakers and Keynote Address
- A Gala Dinner where Recognition Rocks
- The Business Meeting where we Recognise and Elect our District Leaders
- Entertainment and Excursions

All this and More, More, More.

I want to publicly thank the District 71 Conference Team for their phenomenal work in only a few short weeks – Michael McCann, Jillian Gerarty, David Clinton, Marian Brennan, Brenda Lannon, Oliya Knoutova, Peter Kiernan, Angela Agfieghe, Elizabeth Jordan and Linda Devlin – a wonderful mixture of experience and fresh faces looking at Conference with fresh eyes.

All that is missing from this Team of All Talents at the moment is You!

As they say on Strictly, the Lines are now open at theroseconference2026.com
If you want to purchase Conference tickets at a special Early Bird Price, go to theroseconference2026.com

If you purchase your ticket before 31st January, you will be entered in a GOLDEN TICKET draw for your ticket cost to be refunded.



Packie Bonner

Celebrated Irish footballer and motivational speaker.

08 - 10 MAY, 2026
THE ROSE HOTEL, TRALEE, CO. KERRY

Register Now!
€250 Early Bird
theroseconference2026.com

Following his playing career, Packie served as Technical Director with the Football Association of Ireland, contributed to UEFA and FIFA technical boards, worked as a BBC football pundit and authored his autobiography, The Last Line.

Today, Packie is a highly sought-after motivational speaker, bringing powerful insights on leadership, resilience, teamwork and community engagement to corporate and sporting audiences.

THE ROSE CONFERENCE

Roger Caesar, DTM
Certified World Class Speaking Coach

08 - 10 MAY, 2026
THE ROSE HOTEL, TRALEE, CO. KERRY

Register Now!
€250 Early Bird
theroseconference2026.com

If you would like to Deliver a Workshop please apply via the form on theroseconference2026.com before 16th February. If you would like to Volunteer at Conference, please apply via the form on theroseconference2026.com. Please contact the Rose Hotel directly for your accommodation requirements, and contact details are again on the Conference website theroseconference2026.com. The Rose Hotel has excellent, award winning accessibility facilities supporting delegates with any additional needs or requirements. Conference is all on one level on the Ground Floor. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance via our Delegate Experience Lead Linda Devlin. If you, your company, or any Club, Area or Division would like to Partner Conference please contact via theroseconference2026.com. We have opportunities in terms of Raffle Prizes, Conference Brochure advertisements and Corporate Partnership Packages, contact us via theroseconference2026.com

Please Like and Share our Social Media posts on your personal, Club, Area and District accounts. The PR Team are also looking for 30-60 second video testimonials of what you enjoy and look forward to at Conference. So get out the mobile and join in the fun!

Please also note that we have Conference Ambassadors who would welcome an opportunity to visit your club meetings, either in person if possible or online, to bring the Conference information to you and your colleagues. However, the best Partnership you can give is to come along yourself

We want to give you “Cead Mille Falite” – a Hundred Thousand Welcomes – to the Rose Conference at the Rose Hotel on 8th to 10th May 2026

So our Call to Action is very Simple – Are you Coming to Conference?

James Finnegan

Rose Conference Chair

Dr Liam Moggan
Coach educators and performance development expert.

08 - 10 MAY, 2026
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THE POWER OF INCLUSIVE VOICES

THE IDEAL TEAM

The Toastmasters District 71 IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Lived Experience) team has enjoyed an excellent start, with the first few months since its inaugural meeting in September proving to be both productive and inspiring. This month's edition takes a different approach, featuring a special guest takeover by one of our dedicated committee members.

Shelley Cowan, who recently established Island Voices Toastmasters, has already made a significant impact within her own club and across District 71. In this edition, Shelley shares her personal journey, reflecting on the challenges she has encountered and overcome. She also recounts the story behind the founding of Island Voices Toastmasters and highlights the meaningful work she is undertaking to advance inclusion throughout Toastmasters.

Twelve years confined to bed, followed by a decade as a wheelchair user, taught me more about resilience and exclusion than I ever expected. Those years were shaped by inaccessibility, doors I couldn't get through, rooms I couldn't enter and opportunities I was denied. Yet one thing remained with me throughout: my voice.

I learned to use my voice to break barriers and challenge perceptions. That experience inspired me to create a space where others, especially those who have felt excluded or overlooked could gain confidence in their own voices. This vision became the foundation of Island Voices Toastmasters, County Fermanagh.

My journey with Toastmasters began when Kevin O'Reilly (District 71 Club Growth Director) approached me about establishing a club based in Enniskillen. Realising how much our rural county needed opportunities to develop communication and leadership skills, Island Voices Toastmasters was created. As founder and current President, I take great pride in knowing the club was built with inclusion at its core.

To me, inclusion means that everyone regardless of ability, age, background or circumstance must be able to come through the door, feel genuinely welcomed and fully participate. Accessibility begins with the physical space, but it continues through our culture. Every new member immediately learns our values: respect, inclusion, empathy and encouragement.

This year, during Inclusion Week, we hosted a special inclusion-themed evening. The IDEAL group encouraged clubs to explore this theme. Our event created an open space for members to share personal challenges including grief, disability, illness, neurodiversity, sexual orientation and visual or hearing impairments.

THE POWER OF INCLUSIVE VOICES

THE IDEAL TEAM

The conversations were powerful and deeply human, reminding us that many struggles are invisible. That night strengthened our understanding of one another and reinforced why inclusive spaces matter.

Island Voices, began on 8th July 2025, and in just five months we have grown into a diverse and vibrant club. A major highlight for the club was being selected as a stop on the recent Campaign of Connection Toastmasters District 71 Bus Tour. The evening was filled with warmth and energy, featuring a performance by the JustUs Choir, a group of adults with disabilities and their carers, which I founded in 2020. It was also the first meeting where the roles and speeches were carried out by Island Voices members. This event demonstrated our core value: everyone is welcome.

I am incredibly proud of every member who has had the courage to come along, step outside their comfort zone and work on improving themselves. Every voice adds something powerful to our community.

As the club grew, we recognised practical barriers too. For many, the traditional Toastmasters timing system was challenging. Colour-blindness, visual impairments, anxiety and even the multitasking required as timer made the system difficult. When STRIDE, in association with PEACEPLUS, invited groups to explore digital community solutions, I knew an inclusive digital timer could make a real difference.

Twelve members and mentors joined the STRIDE discovery process, exploring every challenge people face when timing or being timed. Several solutions emerged, and the STRIDE team is now working to further develop them.

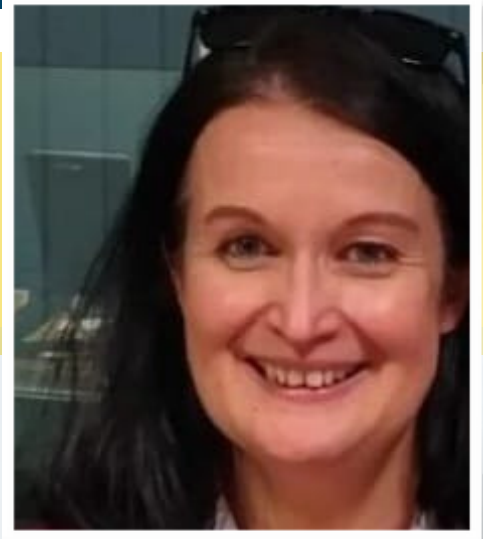
At Island Voices, we've seen how small, thoughtful changes can make a big difference. I encourage every Toastmasters club to explore how they can be more inclusive. Listen to your members, remove barriers where you can and create a space where everyone feels empowered to speak. Inclusion isn't just a value, it's a practice and every small step helps build a stronger, more diverse and more confident community.

Shelley Cowan

President - Island Voices Toastmasters

To learn more about the IDEAL team or to get involved, please contact Edward Leonard at edwardleonard9@gmail.com.

POETIC PALETTE



SNOWDROPS

They nuzzle their way
through the scatterings
of Storm Isha
- splints of fence
a skelf of soffit.

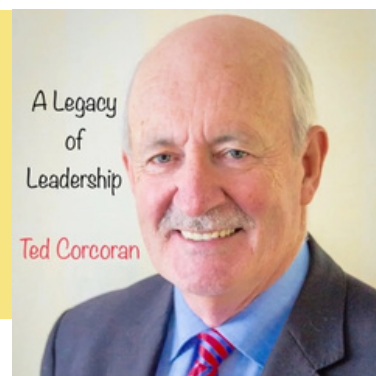
- these harbingers of Spring.
Hooded handmaidens,
bonces bobbing,
gossiping
about the provenance of her smile



CHRISTINA HESSION
DISTRICT 71 POET-IN-RESIDENCE

RECOGNITION ROCKS

TED CORCORAN



Anyone who knows me will be only too aware of my belief that Recognition Rocks!

It particularly Rocks in a volunteer organisation like Toastmasters International in that every club, area, division, and district is run, managed and supported by volunteer members.

So, how is recognition in this context defined?

I like this one.

“Appreciation, or acclaim, for an achievement, service, or ability.”

And what are the positive effects of recognising/appreciating each of the aforementioned?

Being recognised and appreciated offers numerous pluses and benefits for people, clubs, and organisations alike, fostering environments of increased motivation, improved performance, and stronger community bonds.

Toastmasters International, districts and clubs rely on volunteers to survive and grow either by:

- a) Participating in the leadership and communication programmes.
- b) Serving as club or district officers.
- c) Helping/assisting fellow members, or those of other clubs, who need help
- d) Helping to charter new clubs

There are so many ways to recognise achievements and good work.

A simple personal thank you, a note, a mention in newsletters, an invite to participate in club/district business, a club appreciation event, a Hall of Fame or a presentation of certificates and pins etc.

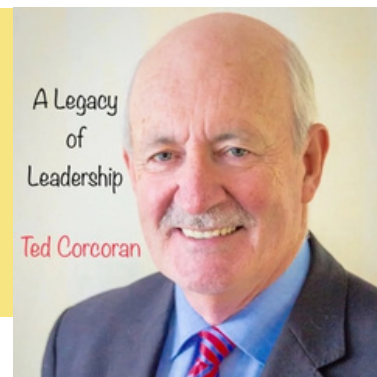
All, or a selection, of these can and should be timely done at club, area, division and district level as seems fit.

It's very important to ensure recognition feels real, not mechanical, and that it helps volunteers understand how their efforts made and are making a difference.

This is achieved by focusing on intrinsic value and ongoing appreciation.

RECOGNITION ROCKS

TED CORCORAN



There are many benefits for the members receiving recognition. These are:

- a) Increased motivation.
- b) Increased morale
- c) Enhanced role satisfaction and engagement.
- d) Improved confidence and self-esteem.
- e) Greater loyalty and retention.

There are big benefits for our clubs, our District, and Toastmasters International too.

a) Higher Productivity and Performance:

Recognized individuals are more likely to go above and beyond their basic duties.

b) Stronger Culture and Cohesion:

Members feel connected to one another and to the group's mission, improving collaboration.

c) Lower Turnover Rates:

A culture of appreciation significantly reduces the likelihood of members leaving and attracts new members. Success breeds success, as it is said.

d) Enhanced Reputation and Image:

An organisation that publicly values its people cultivates a positive reputation within the community.

And there's another plus!

The art of recognising others is a power tool for personal growth in those people who do the recognising as well. So, by recognising others' successes and achievements, we help ourselves too.

Winston Churchill's quote is apt.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

But how good are we at recognition and appreciation in District 71?

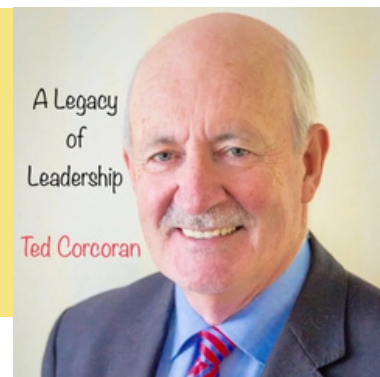
Here are some questions and comments to help answer this.

a) The Immediate Past President of every Distinguished club of any status receives a congratulatory email and certificate from TI around the middle of August each year and has done so since 2022. If your club was Distinguished in the years since, and in 2024/2025, was this email and certificate read at your meeting?

If not, why not?

RECOGNITION ROCKS

TED CORCORAN



Additionally, a Recognition certificate and congratulatory email was forwarded to each successful club by our District CGD, Kevin O'Reilly in late August, early September last.

What happened to these?

In my experience, these congratulatory emails are read at the club meetings no more than 10% of the time.

It's important that these are read. Why? Because Recognition Rocks.

b) Was there a celebration held and the club officers and members who contributed to this success publicly recognised and appreciated at your club and subsequently at every level of district? If not, why not?

c) 113 clubs of 195 in D71 (57.95%), achieved Distinguished status last year. My congratulations to all their leaders and members who made this happen. Your clubs can be described as having a positive club culture. And your success also led to our district's success of achieving Distinguished District status, one of the 37 districts of 131 worldwide who did so.

Congratulations to both DD Danny Banks and his team of district officers, clubs and members who achieved Distinguished status in 2024/2025 and to IPDD Elizabeth Jordan and her team for achieving Select Distinguished status in 2023/2024. These were the first years since the end of the pandemic that our district has achieved Distinguished status.

Congratulations as well to the area and division leaders who helped make it happen in both years.

Our divisions achieved the following percentages of Distinguished Clubs in the respective divisions in 2024/2025.

E= 69%, C= 66%, H= 65%, M=63%, N=62%, F=57%, D=52%, A =39%, S=32%

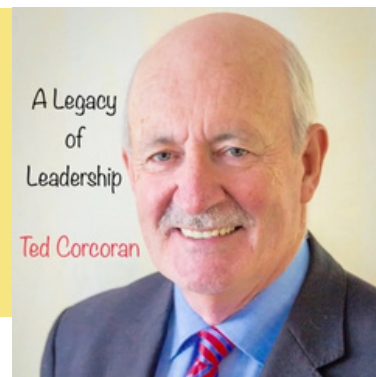
Congratulations and well done to all concerned.

(For those 82 clubs in D71, who for one reason or another, failed to achieve Distinguished status last year, please be aware that we're all here to help you achieve it this current year - just ask.)

A positive and successful club culture in a Toastmasters club can be defined as the established customs, practices, and the official/unspoken rules that shape behaviour.

RECOGNITION ROCKS

TED CORCORAN



Why is it important that clubs have a success culture and regularly achieve DCP Goals? Because it measures how successful clubs are in delivering current official Toastmasters communication and leadership training to its members, as well as running their clubs effectively and efficiently. This is what new members expect to receive when joining. If they fail to receive this training, and/or the club business is run in a slipshod manner, they don't stay members very long!

Clubs that achieve any Distinguished status most years can be said to have a "Success Culture" whereas most clubs that very seldom, or ever, achieve Distinguished, have not.

Has your club a "Success Culture"? If so, congratulations.

If not, we're all here to help you develop one.

Successful club leaders create this sense of importance and satisfaction achieving Distinguished status by recognising and highlighting its achievement, as a positive success culture is always created top down.

A positive club culture is always the leadership's responsibility.

In every successful club, it is the case that what the leadership regards as important gets the attention of the members, and, consequently, a clear awareness of success is created.

This awareness then leads to continuing motivation and success.

It is vitally important to also recognise other member achievements and general contributions, because these contribute hugely to overall club success and a positive culture.

Why does Recognition Rock?

Because members then feel proud of their personal achievements and the success of their clubs and district, when regularly highlighted at club, area, division and district level.

So upwards and onwards to further success in 2026.

May Recognition Rock for all our clubs this year!

CLUB STORIES

DROGHEDA 25 YEAR GALA DINNER

Celebrating 25 Years, 500 Meetings

Drogheda Club President Mark Mealy was delighted to address the assembled members and past members to celebrate 25 Years and 500 meetings of Drogheda Toastmasters at a Gala Dinner just before Christmas last year. It was a night of past reflections, shared moments and dreams for the future attended by District Director Mairead Dillion who presented club president Mark Mealey with a commemorative Plaque on the night.

It was testimony to the skills of the club that 2 hours of speeches held the audience in rapt attention as we journeyed from the start of the Millennium with the first president Dr. Oliver Lynn, reflections from Past Presidents Pdraig McCabe and Sean Martin, a key note speech replayed from the TEDx stage by Eileen Hopkins and words of recognition and encouragement from our District Director Mairead Dillion - leaving everyone looking forward to the next 25 before all adjourned for some lemonade and dancing!



The collected 25 years members, past members and friends of Drogheda Toastmasters - just before the dancing started!

CLUB STORIES

EAST GALWAY SPEAKERS OPEN NIGHT



East Galway Speakers' recent open night in Comworks, Loughrea, attracted an audience of over 70 people both in-person and online. The mini Toastmasters meeting and business panel discussion, featured one of Ireland's best known entrepreneurs, Pat McDonagh, Managing Director of the Supermacs and SO Hotels group.

The event which was the brainchild of East Galway Speakers' VPPR, Elaine Cahill, who was also the excellent moderator of the panel discussion. Club President, Christina Hession, welcomed guests which included Division F Director, Derek Walsh, and Area 12 Director, Frances Geoghegan, in addition to Toastmasters from all over Ireland and even the United States.

Christina was also the Toastmaster, introducing each role holder by their 'My Why.' Zoom Master was East Galway Speakers' founder, Martin Foran, while another charter member Marcello Deidda was Timer. Chris Collins, a former Division F Director, presided over a very engaging topics session.



Photographed at East Galway Speakers' Open Night at Comworks, Loughrea, recently were business panel left to right, Jonathan Madden, Anna Maria Barry, Pat McDonagh and Elaine Cahill, moderator and East Galway Speakers VPPR.

CLUB STORIES

EAST GALWAY SPEAKERS OPEN NIGHT



James Linnane, a Toastmaster for over 40 years, entertained the gathering with his speech, 'Why Bother'? He stated that developing the ability to speak well leads members to assert themselves, become confident and improve their self esteem. This is crucial for people's psychological and physical health.

James praised the guests who were courageous to attend the open night and investigate Toastmasters. His speech was expertly evaluated by Diane Fitzpatrick. The latter also informed the event about East Galway Speakers and Toastmasters' Pathways programmes.

The business panel also included Anna Maria Barry from Chanelle Pharma and Jonathan Madden from Comworks. Following a brief introduction by each, they addressed questions relating to leadership styles, career mistakes and advice for budding entrepreneurs. This was followed by a probing question and answer session. Beth Davis-Reinhold, an East Galway Speakers member from Maryland, USA, entertained the gathering with a creative corner, featuring three New Year Brian Bilston poems.

Christina Hession



Pictured at East Galway Speakers' Open night recently were left to right Annabell Fitzgerald, Corrib Oranmore Toastmasters and Majella O'Dea, East Galway Speakers.

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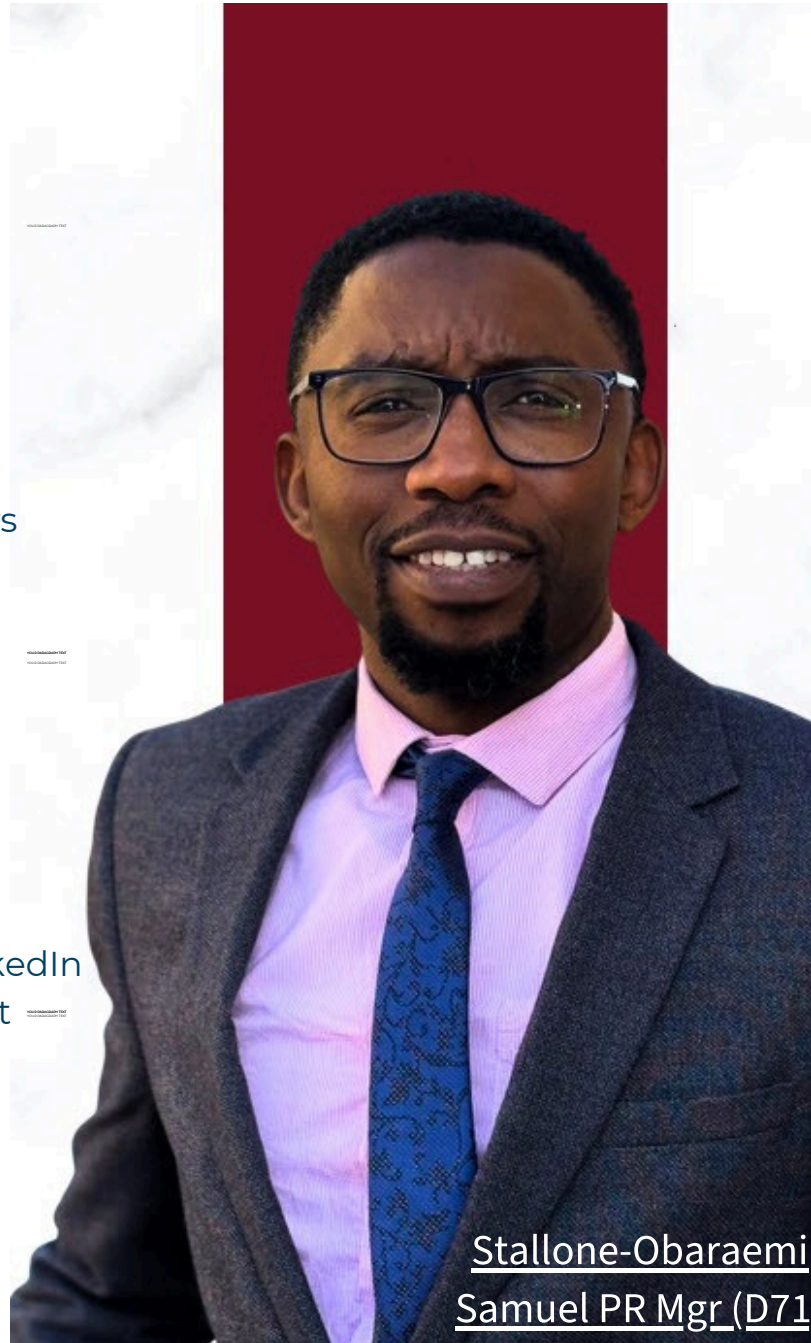
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- Video Creators & Editors
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- SEO Specialists
- Copywriters WordPress Designers
- Media Relations Specialists
- Project Support & Dashboard Managers
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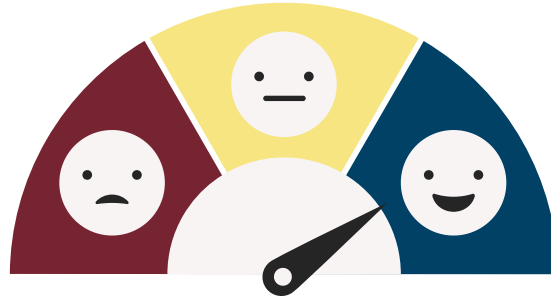
Volunteer Benefits

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- Job reference letter & certificates LinkedIn recommendation from D71 PR project team
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Stallone-Obaraemi
Samuel PR Mgr (D71)

FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

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Suggest Content:

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Email your feedback and suggestions to **d71PRManager@gmail.com** or send us a message on our social media platforms. We're always listening!

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

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FOR READING!**

