

Welcome District 37 Toastmasters.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of a New Year...a new Toastmasters year. With great anticipation the District Leadership Team is working to help existing clubs becoming focused on meeting our member's needs and growing stronger as a group of collective individuals with a focus on Communication and Leadership. At the same time we are looking forward to meeting new members and to new clubs joining District 37.

There are two incentives that we want to bring to your attention at the start of this New Year. First, we want to challenge all club officers to attend Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) training for your elected role. This challenge is to encourage all seven officers to attend both the Summer TLI and the Winter TLI. If your club doesn't have seven officers but can have someone serve as a dual officer and they attend both sessions, it counts. Clubs who meet the requirement will receive a set of club officer pins.

Second, we are creating a challenge for existing DTMs to mentor an existing or former leader of their club to consider serving as an Area Director or other District Officer position in 2022/2023. Applications for leader roles must be submitted to the District Leadership Chair by January 15, 2022, with the DTM nominating them. If they are accepted for a leader position for the upcoming year, there will be additional recognition for the DTM and the new Leader. If each DTM helps one Club Leader learn about the potential for Leadership growth, and that it is a safe environment to practice "Leadership," just like our clubs are a safe place to practice "Communication", then we will be setting up D37 for years to come with strong leaders.

We currently have a need for Area Directors in three divisions for this New Year. New candidates would need to quickly receive training and be eligible for service credit and recognition. There are openings in Divisions A, E, and F. If you have any leads or suggestions for potential Area Directors, please let me know. With the potential of having live meetings and contests in the next year calendar year, we need people who will be in close proximity to the clubs in the area and willing to drive as needed.

Our focus now is on the health of our clubs and members during the Summer and Fall. In the Winter and Spring, we will plan to have Evaluation, Table Topics, and International Speech Contests. With three contests at the same time, we will only advance First place winners for all Clubs and Area Contests. Additionally, by delaying all contests until January, we will be planning for Areas, Divisions, and the District to hold "Live" events. If conditions warrant, the District Executive committee will review the option for all contests to be Virtual at our January DEC meeting.

Let's start the Toastmasters New Year focused on meeting our member's needs and rebuilding our clubs to be stronger in Communication and Leadership.

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