



D37 Connections

July/August 2020

Hello fellow Toastmasters! Welcome to the new edition of *D37 Connections*, a monthly email that highlights what is happening in the District along with up-to-date information and ideas that will help you be successful!

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A special message from our District Director Michael Beach

Hello District 37,

It is an honor to serve as your District Director for the 2020/2021 year. It is a new day for District 37 as we transition to splitting into Districts 37 and 117. This is a great time to be a member of Toastmasters. It is obvious that COVID-19 has affected all of us in more ways than just Toastmasters. However, our members have pulled together and achieved success by meeting virtually, by having contests using Zoom, and having district wide meetings online.



The value that Toastmasters brings to its members is the most important part. When the members achieve their goals, then the district will be successful. It starts with each of you. The district mission is to build new clubs and support all clubs to achieve excellence. We can bring the Toastmasters experience to more people by starting new clubs and by increasing club membership. Since Toastmasters is a communication organization it is important that each of you please let the [district leaders](#) know how we can help you.

The core values of Toastmasters—Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence—should be remembered by all members of District 37 including the district officers.

The future of District 37 is dependent upon each of you.

Michael

What's New and Most Important This Month

1. Final District 37 Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)

The District Trio has set a goal of 100% participation from all newly elected club officers. Club officers are required to attend in order to receive credit towards the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) goals.

However, TLI is not just for officers! The second hour is packed with sessions designed to help you and your club be successful. [You can see the agenda on this flyer.](#)

Event Details	
Date:	Monday, August 10
Time:	5:30 to 8:30 pm
Location:	Virtual over Zoom
Register:	Register through Eventbrite. You will receive the Zoom link in your confirmation. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/district-37-toastmasters-leadership-institute-tli-training-tickets-114030730986

2. Open Leadership Role—Club Extension Chair

This is a great opportunity to lead the **Club Growth Team**, which is responsible for one of the most important aspects of District 37—generating, managing, and tracking leads to develop new clubs.

Members of this team will:

- Follow up with leads on new clubs, work with corporations to show them the benefits Toastmasters brings, and help develop clubs in a variety of settings.
- Manage all credible new club leads within the district.
- Generate new leads from contacting and researching corporations, churches, and other organizations.
- Schedule and staff all demonstration meetings, recruit and train the team, and collect the required chartering funds.

If you are interested, please contact:

Club Growth Director Valda Ford, DTM, AS

valda.ford@d37toastmasters.org

3. Contest Season is here!

The Humorous Speech and Evaluation contests are this Fall. Contests are a great opportunity to practice your speaking skills in a judged environment. If you don't want to speak, volunteer! Contests need many people to be a success and it's a great opportunity to practice your leadership skills.

Key dates:

August 15 – September 12 Club Contests

September 26 – October 17 Area Contests
October 31 – November 21 Division Contests

Visit Toastmasters International for the [2020/2021 Contest Rulebook](#) and to find additional resources. Additionally, take a moment to read [Why On Earth Would I Enter a Speech Contest?](#)

4. Year at a Glance

The District has a handy list of key dates for the year, including district meetings, contests, and membership campaigns. [Bookmark this document for easy reference.](#)

Meet the Trio!

Our top district leaders share a bit about themselves and Toastmasters. Read more about **Michael Beach, District Director, Tim Edwards, Program Quality Director, and Valda Ford, Club Growth Director.** [You can read their stories here.](#)

Resources for You and Your Club

Resources for Conducting Virtual meetings and contests.

District 2 Toastmasters has set up a page full of videos and information about how to run a virtual meeting. They are updating the page regularly and adding new content all the time. [Check it out!](#)

District 37 Pathways Resource Page

The [Pathways Resource Page](#) on the District Website provides video tutorials, guidelines for Toastmasters and Base Camp Managers, and insights on the Pathways Learning Experience. Do you have challenges or questions about Pathways we can address on the resource page? [Contact us!](#) We need your ideas for resources to add!

Use Meetup for your club!

District 37 offers a **free** Meetup Access Program allowing clubs to post events to a shared Meetup group page centered in their nearest metropolitan area. This saves clubs about \$200 per year in subscription fees. Meetups have proven invaluable in getting the word out about Toastmasters and attracting visitors. [Read more information and find instructions to set up your club.](#)

Useful Links:

- **Articles of Interest**—we have placed various articles, including past *D37 Connections* and topical pieces to our web site on the [Articles of Interest](#) page.
 - **District 4** in California has an exceptional breakdown of the [Pathways Learning Experience](#).
 - **Set up a club website**—Free Toast Host 3.0 [Support site](#).
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Contact Us!

Suggestions for the newsletter and comments are welcome!
[Contact Public Relations Manager](#) Brian Crutchfield.
Please check out our website at d37toastmasters.org.