

May 10-11, 2024

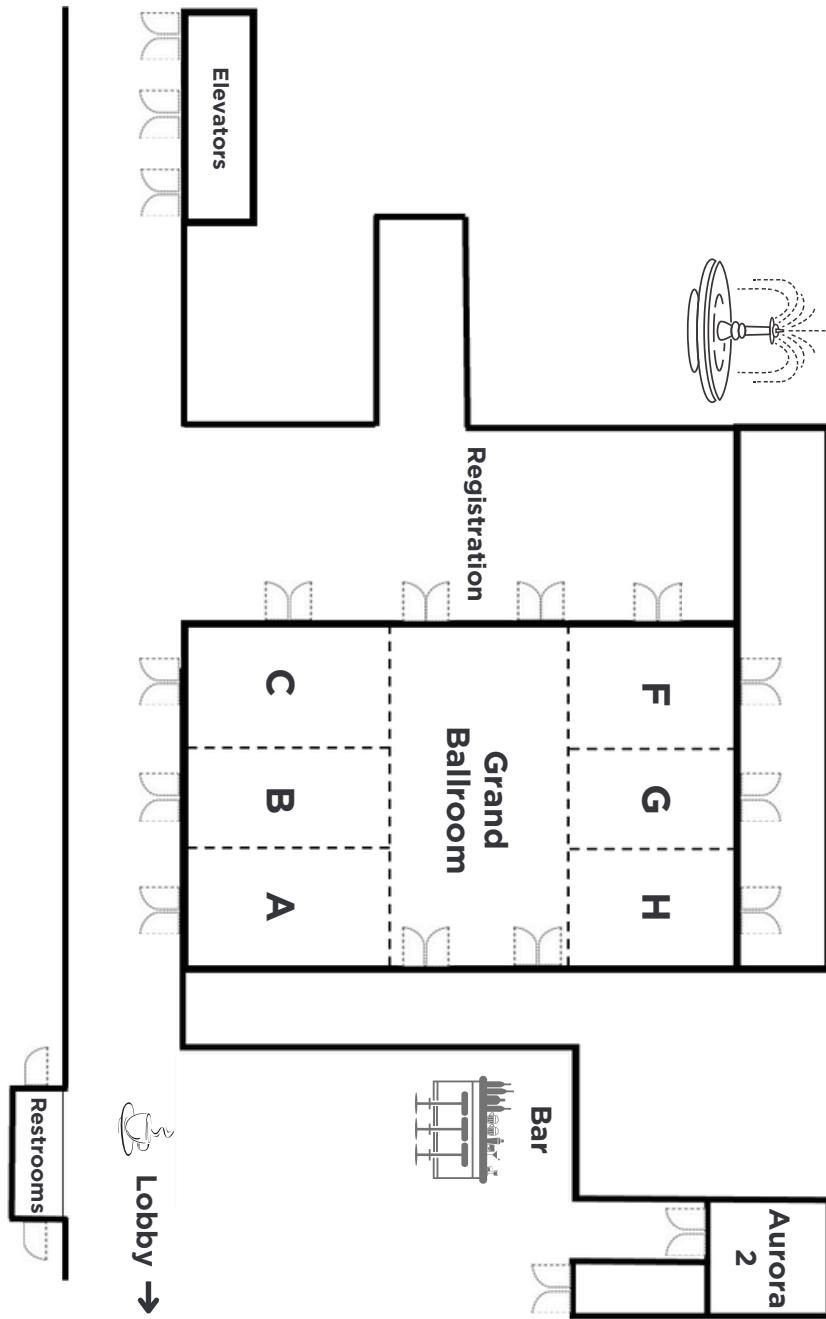


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Information

Registration:

The registration desk is located in the hall in front of the Grand Ballroom.

Badges will not be sold at the ballroom door. No one will be admitted to these events without a badge. A limited number of event badges will be sold at the registration desk before each scheduled event. District 25 cannot replace lost badges. If you find a lost badge, please return it to the registration desk.

Registration Hours:

Friday Opening at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday Opening at 7:00 a.m.

Registration will be closed during meal events and contests.

Hospitality: Step into our welcoming hospitality suite, an oasis that offers a delightful array of complimentary snacks and beverages, as well as a haven for fellowship and enjoyment. Come join us during set hours and savor the warmth of our community as you indulge in these complimentary delights.

Hospitality Hours:

Friday 9:45—11:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00am—6:15pm;

After DTM Ceremony—11:00 p.m.

Closed during meal events and contests.

For in-Person Attendees:

Conference badges are your passport around the event. Please wear your badge at all times. If your badge is lost, please visit the registration desk.

For Virtual Attendees:

Your conference links are your passport for admission to all general and education sessions. For the enjoyment of all, please mute your microphone at all times.

Welcome

Hi Sunshines!

I need you to know just how incredibly excited I am that you are joining us this weekend. Our conferences are always amazing events- filled with laughter, learning, growth, inspiration, friends, family, fun and magic. It's the best of everything we do in Toastmasters.

I'm not even sure what our highlight event will be, if I'm honest- this is always an action-packed weekend with the best of the best happening. We've got the best of this year's competitors for both the Evaluation Contest Finale and the International Speech District level contest- that winner will represent District 25 at the regional competition. We have our world-famous, often-duplicated never-replicated DTM Ceremony, which is so powerful it always gives me shivers. We've got top-notch keynotes coming in to share their world-class expertise and knowledge with us. Our International Director will be sharing wisdom she's gained that helps her be a fantastically involved and successful leader. The wide variety of education sessions provided enable everyone can maximize their own growth by choosing what they will benefit from most. We will install the elected officers for 2024-2025 and take a first look at the future of the district. And that's not even all of it!

On top of the formal opportunities for learning and celebrating, you will have all the informal magic that makes a good conference worth attending. That's right- MAGIC! Making new friends, hugging old friends, seeing people in person instead of on a screen, laughing, sharing, helping each other. Connecting on a personal level to the greater Toastmasters family. That's the magic. That's always the indescribable, priceless part of what we do, but at conferences we do it at 100x's the magnitude!

This conference we will have unlimited opportunities to Share Your Sunshine no matter what role we have in it- from committee to attendee to presenter to...anything really. Take advantage of this weekend in every way you can- after all, that's why you came isn't it? Tailor the experience to your goals and interests and maximize every minute. My personal belief is that if I don't go home exhausted, I didn't do it right. I challenge you to do the same- use every minute to its maximum potential and squeeze everything you can out of the weekend. Go home exhausted but inspired, connected, happy, and ready for more!

I am looking forward to seeing where we all go as we use this weekend as a launchpad for Our Next Great Adventure!



Emily Murray, DTM
D25 District Director

Welcome

Dear Toastmasters and Guests,

Welcome to the District 25 Toastmasters Conference, where we embark on "Our Next Great Adventure" together! As we gather to celebrate the power of communication and leadership, let us embrace the spirit of adventure that fuels our journey toward personal and professional growth.

Over the next few days, we'll explore new horizons, learn from each other's experiences, and forge connections that will enrich our Toastmasters journey. Get ready to embark on an unforgettable adventure filled with inspiration, education, and camaraderie.

As we gather in the spirit of collaboration, let us remember the core values of Toastmasters: integrity, respect, and excellence. Together, let's create an inclusive and supportive environment where every voice is heard and every journey is valued.

Our conference is not just about the destination; it's about the connections we make and the impact we have on each other's lives. So, let's set sail on this next great adventure with open hearts and minds, ready to inspire and be inspired.

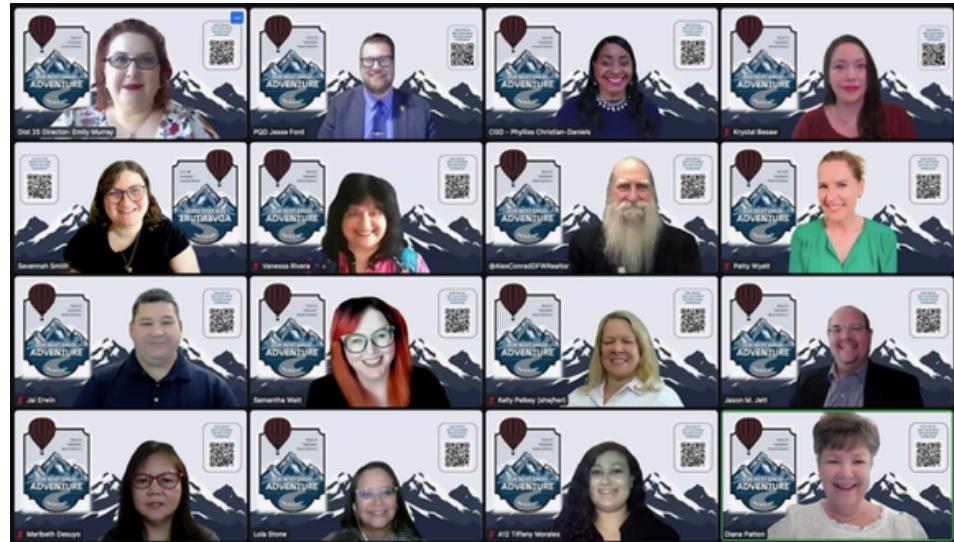
Amidst the excitement of our conference theme, "Our Next Great Adventure," let us also take a moment to reflect on the journeys that have brought us here. Each of us has a unique story to tell, filled with triumphs, challenges, and moments of growth. Let us honor the paths we've traveled and the lessons we've learned, knowing that they have prepared us for the adventures that lie ahead.

Let's chart our course toward excellence as we navigate through workshops, speeches, and networking opportunities. Together, we'll discover the next chapter of our Toastmasters adventure. Here's to the adventure ahead!



Krystal Besaw
Conference Chair

Conference Committee



District Director	Emily Murray	DTM Chair	Lawrence Reid*
Program Quality Director	Jesse Ford	Slide Master	Vanessa Rivera
Club Growth Director	Phylliss Cristian-Daniels	Volunteer Chair	Celeste Castro*
Conference Chair	Krystal Besaw	Sponsor Chair	DJ Reed*
Education Chair	Kelly Pelkey	Registration Chair	Savannah Smith
Public Relations Chair	Jenall Gold*	Decorations Chair	Elicia Cook*
Outreach Chair	Jai Erwin	First Timer's Chair	Maribeth Desuyo
Web Team Co-Chair	Diana Patton	Contest Chair	Samantha Watt
Web Team Co-Chair	Mike Levy*	District Chief Judge	Jason Jett
Logistics Chair	Patty Wyatt	Editor	Liz Brenner*
Facilities Manager	Alex Conrad	Lectern Chair	Jai Erwin

*Not Pictured

Does one of these positions interest you?

Volunteering with us is more than just a role; it's a chance to grow in leadership, gain new skills, and make a lasting impact.

Email trio@d25toastmasters.com for volunteer opportunities.

Friday May 10th

4:00 p.m.	Registration Opens <i>Outside of Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5:15 p.m.	Education Session	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Violetta Rios</i>	<i>Creating Your Personal Brand</i> <i>Room C</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:15 p.m.	First Timers Reception <i>Aurora 2</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:45 p.m.	Doors Open <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:45 p.m.	Parade of Banners Lineup <i>Outside of Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony with Parade of Banners <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:15 p.m.	Friday Night Dinner <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keynote: Violetta Rios	The Price of Being Yourself <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8:30 p.m.	Evaluation Contest <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:30 p.m.	Friday Night Social <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:45 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens <i>Ask D25 Desk for Room Information</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Closes	<input type="checkbox"/>

Friday Schedule

Saturday May 11th

Saturday Schedule

7:00 a.m.	Registration Opens <i>Outside of Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:30 a.m.	Doors Open <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8–8:50 a.m.	Saturday Morning Breakfast <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keynote: Bob Tiede	Leading with Questions <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8:00 a.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens <i>Ask D25 Desk for Room Information</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9–9:50 a.m.	Education Session 1	
<i>Bob Tiede</i>	<i>Leading with Questions</i> <i>Room C</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Lupe Prado</i>	<i>How to Find your Paid Vocation</i> <i>Room F</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10–10:50 a.m.	Education Session 2	
<i>Paige Dixon</i>	<i>Coffee, Combat & Curses</i> <i>Room C</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Kelley Burns</i>	<i>Empowering Success: A Journey with Auction.com</i> <i>Room F</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11–11:50 a.m.	Education Session 3	
<i>Danny Gallagher</i>	<i>Permission: Impossible</i> <i>Room C</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Leslie McMurray</i>	<i>You want Adventure? Try living as a different gender</i> <i>Room F</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Saturday May 11th

Saturday Schedule

11:45 a.m.	Doors Open <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:15 p.m.	District Awards Luncheon <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keynote: Sandy Diaz Haley	Resilience Redefined: One woman's journey navigating adversity through vulnerability & connection <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:15 p.m.	Raffle Drawing <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:45–2:45 p.m.	Education Session 4	
<i>Dana Dillard</i>	<i>Inside Scoop on Managing 5 Generations</i> <i>Room C</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Abel Gonzales</i>	<i>The Fry is the Limit</i> <i>Room F</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3:00 p.m.	International Speech Contest <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5:30 p.m.	DTM Ceremony Rehearsal <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:30 p.m.	Doors Open <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Saturday May 11th

6:30 p.m.	Dignitary Parade Lineup <i>Outside of Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:45 p.m.	Dignitary Parade <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:00 p.m.	Saturday Night Dinner & Distinguished Toastmaster Ceremony <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keynote: Dana Dillard	My Leadership Adventure – The Woodshed, the Tears and More <i>Ballroom</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:00 p.m.	Conference Adjourns	<input type="checkbox"/>



Violetta Rios

Friday Keynote

The Price of Being Yourself

Violetta is an avid Harry Potter fan and claims to be from the house of Slytherin. Her favorite role in Toastmasters is anything PR. Violetta will help you discover who the hell you are, what you have to offer to the world and how to make yourself bulletproof.

Biography

Violetta Rios, DTM, is the Head of People Operations at Blu Creative Agency, a creative studio focused on social media and public relations. In her role, she optimizes human resource processes for onboarding/offboarding, performance management, career development, feedback, and coaching. She also designs and coordinates team-building and integration activities.

Rios majored in Communication with a minor in Advertising from the UANL (University of Nuevo Leon) and earned a Master's Degree in Human Talent Development from the Universidad Regiomontana; both in Monterrey, Mexico. During the pandemic, she began training in resilient thanatology and thanotherapy, enabling her to provide support for individuals navigating the grieving process as a result of the pandemic and everyday life, and concluded her certification in December 2023.

A Toastmaster since 2005, Rios is a member of her home clubs, Comunicacion y Participacion, in Monterrey and RedJal in Guadalajara. She has held several high-profile leadership positions within Toastmasters including Region Advisor and Lead Spanish Reviewer.



Bob Tiede

Breakfast Keynote

Leading with Questions

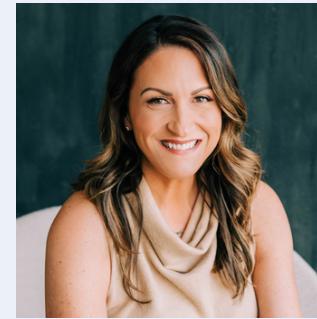
Would you like to multiply your leadership effectiveness times ten? Would you like to learn to lead with questions in 30 seconds? Would you like to become a better listener in eight seconds? If your answers are “Yes! Yes! Yes!” then you will not want to miss Bob Tiede’s “Leading With Questions” session!

Biography

Bob Tiede (pronounced “Tee-Dee”) has been on the staff of Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ) for 52 years – serving eight years at Cru Campus and then 24 years as the CEO of Josh McDowell Ministry – a Division of Cru. He now has 20 years on the U.S. Leadership Development Team – developing the next generation of leaders for Cru.

Bob’s blog LeadingWithQuestions.com is now in its 11th year and is followed by leaders in over 200 countries. Bob has written six books, including “Great Leaders Ask Question – a Fortune 100 List” and “Now That’s a Great Question”. His newest book is the 3rd Edition of “LEADING WITH QUESTIONS” which has been Amazon’s #1 Best Seller in the category of Business communication! Bob’s mission is to help leaders everywhere multiply their leadership effectiveness times ten by moving from “Let Me Tell You!” to “Let Me Ask You!”

Bob has been married to Sherry for 53 years. He is the proud Dad of four adult children who are all married and has eight incredible grandchildren – all who love to ask their “Papa Bob” questions!



Sandy Diaz Haley

Lunch Keynote

Resilience redefined: One woman’s story of navigating adversity through vulnerability & connection

Sandy will share her personal story of adversity, triumph, and everything in between. Life’s setbacks have fueled her, not defined her, and the comeback is even better! From her health problems to her career setbacks, she has overcome obstacles, proving that vulnerability is not a weakness; it is her superpower!

Biography

Sandy Diaz Haley is a mother, a wife, an entrepreneur, and a Multiple Sclerosis Warrior. Born in Lima, Peru, she has straddled two cultures all her life.

When she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2014, she told herself she’d be ‘the best damn thing that ever happened to MS.’ She has represented the National MS Society as a patient advocate ever since.

Sandy is the Founder and Principal of SDH Communications, helping organizations define what they stand for and connect with audiences through strategic communications. Sandy is also the Founder of TBC, The Bada\$\$ Collective, a networking community of 2K+ professionals, empowering women and allies to define success on their own terms. She has been named a Top 100 Most Influential Latina by Latino Leader Magazine and received a 40 Under 40 award in 2021. She serves as an advisory board member for the Mayborn School of Journalism, and she is a member of CHIEF, a network supporting senior executive female leaders.



Dana Dillard

DTM Dinner Keynote

My Leadership Adventure— The Woodshed, The Tears, and More

Leading with inclusion is at the heart of the talk as Dana recalls the ups and downs of her career and the lessons she has learned along the way. In addition to sharing information about her own career journey, Dana will focus on her three big career takeaways which help build a successful career in leadership. With an eye towards inclusive leadership and a long list of examples from her decades-long career, Dana will both encourage leaders in their daily roles and leave them wiser by sharing her lessons learned.

Biography

Starting her career as a call center agent and working her way to the executive level, Dana Dillard is an award-winning leader in financial services. She is known for her collaborative style and humorous personality, and she has a heart for the customers she has served for over 30 years. Whether leading call center operations, handling the customer complaints area, or being the star witness for the company in litigation, Dana has experienced a robust career focused on collaboration and building people up. It was Dana's curiosity about how teams perform that led her to pursue a master's degree in Inclusive Leadership and this combination of experience and education culminated in her debut book, *Jackfruit Leadership*. When she's not working on her next book, you can find Dana giving keynote speeches and leading workshops where she helps managers evolve into the type of leaders they were meant to be.



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

An education session is a workshop led by experienced members or speakers covering topics like public speaking, leadership, emotional IQ, and personal development.

There are 4 Education Session Blocks on Saturday with **TWO** options each. On the following pages, you can find out the details for each session and choose your own Saturday Adventure!

Scan this QR code to visit our education session webpage and view the speaker's biographies.



Friday 5:15—6:10 p.m.



Creating Your Personal Brand

Violetta Rios

What do your International Director, Harry Potter and Baby Yoda have in common? Come to this session and find out how these three come together as Violetta shares her own adventure in leadership.

Room: C

Saturday 9–9:50 a.m.

**Leading with Questions****Bob Tiedee**

Leadership is not as much about knowing the right answers as it is about asking the right questions. Would you like to know the four questions used by one consultant who makes a handsome six-figure income? Would you like to know the three questions used by one Navy Commander that helped him move the morale on his ship from worst to first in the entire U.S. Navy? Would you like to know the very best question to ask anytime you are asked a question? Would you like to know how you can dramatically increase the effectiveness of every meeting agenda that you ever put together? Would you like to know how to respond confidently to any question one of your staff ever asks you? If your answer is “YES times five” then you will not want to miss Bob Tiedee’s Education Session!

**How to Find Your Paid Vocation****Lupe Prado**

Join Lupe Prado for a heartfelt exploration into finding work that not only pays but fulfills. As the first in her family to graduate college and a former accountant turned executive coach, Lupe shares her transformative journey towards a career she loves. She will show you how can do the same. This presentation will inspire you with actionable insights drawn from personal experience and stories from the “Paid Vocation” podcast. Discover how to align your profession with your passion and take meaningful steps toward your own paid vocation. An interactive segment with live guest stories will illuminate the path to fulfilling work, inviting you to embark on your own journey toward a career that truly resonates.

Room: C

Saturday 10–10:50 a.m.

**Coffee, Combat & Curses****Paige Dixon**

Some of us are waiting for a hero to show up on our behalf. The reality is that we are the Calvary and we’re going to have to save ourselves. This presentation is about a girl who grew up on a small dirt road in Georgia, defied the odds, and broke the mold. Hear her talk about her childhood, her service to this country, and how she dug deep, changed the game, and became who she needed to be to continue serving her community.

**Empowering Auction Success: A Journey with Auction.com****Kelley Burns**

Would you like to learn innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by underrepresented investors? Discover how Kelley’s commitment to ethical standards and building inclusive teams has driven success and advancement within Auction.com. Gain insights into practical strategies for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within your own organizations and communities. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from Kelley’s experience and ignite positive change in your sphere of influence.

Room: F

Room: C

Saturday 11–11:50 a.m.**Permission:
Impossible****Danny Gallagher**

What's stopping you from doing something you've always wanted to do? Don't think you'll have enough time? Are you worried that you aren't talented enough to try? Do you fear it will break the laws of time and space and doom mankind to a plane of non-existent misery? Whatever the reason, there's only one thing that's keeping you from even starting to pursue your vision: you. My story about my comedy career looks at my experiences of how just starting, and giving yourself permission to pursue something you've always wanted to try, can take you to inevitable failures, finding the confidence to keep going and places you never thought you'd go.

**You want Adventure?
Try living as a different gender.****Leslie McMurray**

She had it all. She had a 33-year marriage, two wonderful daughters, big house, cars and a job she loved as a morning DJ – but she wasn't happy, not truly. Maybe what made her so good at radio was the ability to create a character and BE that person...because she did it every day.

Until she didn't. Everyone knew her as a guy. She drove in a demolition derby, she drove a jet fuel truck and hot-fueled helicopters doing drug raids... you know, guy stuff. Then one day, she came out as a transgender woman and lost it all. Any regrets? Nope. Still, this new adventure presented the most difficult challenges of her life.

Room: C

Room: F

Saturday 1:45–2:45 p.m.**Inside Scoop on Managing 5 Generations****Dana Dillard**

With five generations in the workplace for the first time, it is important to understand the similarities and differences that each group brings to work. With a focus on communication, recognition, a sense of urgency, and sharing personal information, leaders will leave with a stronger strategy to connect with all of their team members in unique, but effective ways.

Room: C

The Fry is the Limit**Abel Gonzales**

Join Abel Gonzales on a captivating journey through the exciting world of the Texas State Fair Concessionaire. Discover how he found his calling and transformed his job into a source of joy. Abel will share valuable insights on how to balance success with enthusiasm, and the upsides and downsides of notoriety. Get ready for an unforgettable experience that will inspire you to chase your own dreams!

Room: F

THANK YOU!

Clubs Sponsoring Keynote Speakers

Violetta Rios: Cref Toastmasters Club
Bob Thiede: IT Egos
Sandy Diaz Haley: Weatherford Club
Dana Dillard: Mr. Cooper Speaks & Mr. Cooper Inspires

Education Session Presenters

Violetta Rios: San Angelo Toastmasters
Bob Thiede: Lakeside Club
Lupe Prado: Crefmasters Toastmasters Club
Paige Dixon: Progressive Leaders
Kelley Burns: Crefmasters Toastmasters Club
Danny Gallagher: Adventure in Progress
Leslie McMurray: Leaders-Speakers of Tomorrow
Dana Dillard: Lakeside Club
Abel Gonzales: Adventure in Progress

Special Sponsorship

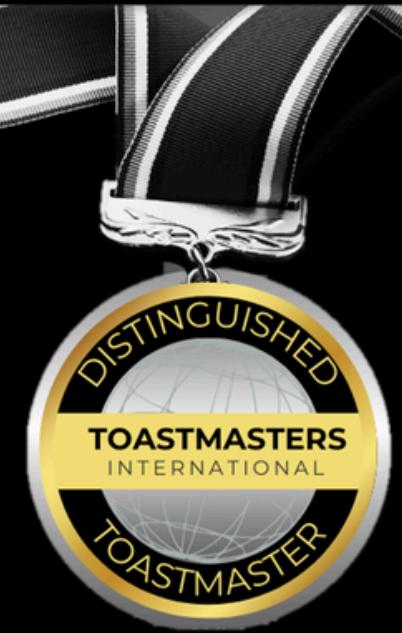
District Director's Farewell Address:
Highway to Excellence



What is a Distinguished Toastmaster

Becoming a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) in Toastmasters is the pinnacle of public speaking and leadership achievement, showcasing one's dedication to personal growth and service to others. A DTM embodies exceptional speaking skills and leadership qualities, inspiring fellow members through their journey of self-improvement.

Achieving this prestigious title demands dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to mastering speaking and leadership roles. It symbolizes not just achievement, but also the enduring spirit of growth and collaboration within the Toastmasters community.





Kelley Rene Daniels

Innovative Planning, Presentation Mastery

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

I learned that I can artfully navigate the drama of leading creatives, skillfully master deadlines, step in to support a team member as needed, and successfully manage any challenge to successfully birth a book baby.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

Toastmasters revolutionized my life. Where I once doubted my abilities to lead, Toastmasters gave me the confidence, skills, and freedom to try, fail, and improve. Where I once feared the concept of standing before an audience, I now embrace it and speak as often as I can. Where I once listened to speak, I now listen to hear and understand. Being a better communicator has improved all areas of my life.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Adopt a growth mindset. Every time your nerves get the better of you or you fall flat on your face, get back up, dust yourself off, and try again. Celebrate the little wins so you can one day celebrate the big wins!

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

With the success of my DTM project—publishing a book—not only did I thoroughly enjoy the process, but I learned I'm really good at it. I recently launched Palm Branch Publishing with a similar business model to help novice authors towards publication. Our inaugural book will launch fall 2024.



Najaf Dostaliyev

Innovative Planning, Presentation Mastery

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

The path to success starts with building and leading teams, and by encouraging others when you are leader by always demonstrating unwavering motivation to continue the journey you started.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

Helped me to be a better communicator, a leader and taught me the resilience to continue the projects despite the setback I faced.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Take a role and be active at the club level, and enjoy the club meetings. That is how all starts.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

I am working on my two other pathway projects, and hopefully I can get them completed. That is my goal right now.



Kim Haagen

Presentation Mastery, Engaging Humor

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

That the skills that we learn in Toastmasters, from the club level to the district level, are useful and needed in other organizations we care about. Once you are a leader, you are a leader. It is part of who you are and how you do everything. Integrity, respect, service, and excellence, these are the pillars on which Toastmasters is built and, if you embrace them, will make you a great leader.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

The biggest change has been in my confidence. In being able to be authentic about who I am and what I stand for. To not let the mistakes of my past define me, but to work daily on becoming the best version of me.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

It's all about who you become. All of it. Let this process change you. Listen to the evaluations you receive. Solicit feedback from people you respect who are further along in the process.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

Use the skills I've gained in Toastmasters to do good in the world, and to start a business focused on helping others find empowerment through improved communication skills. I would also love to become a professional speaker.



Shameika McAllister

Innovative Planning, Dynamic Leadership

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

Hidden talents were revealed I never knew I possessed. Also, confronting my fear of the unfamiliar became essential for my ongoing personal growth.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

It has profoundly impacted my life by alleviating my fear of public speaking, a fear that once triggered anxiety attacks. Through the process, I've gained confidence and ease when addressing audiences, which has notably translated to my professional environment. Thanks to Toastmasters and my personal growth journey, new career opportunities have emerged which were previously inaccessible. Toastmasters has empowered me to approach both my professional and personal endeavors with both courage and intent.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Uncover what motivates you. Upon joining, define your purpose and craft a clear plan of action. Remember to be kind to yourself along the way because life happens-go with it. Embrace the flexibility to adjust your course as needed, as growth is the essence of being a Toastmaster—constantly evolving to become better than yesterday.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

My upcoming objective is to finish my Doctoral Journey, a pursuit that's uniquely for my own advancement. Through both life experiences and Toastmasters, I've grasped the importance of prioritizing myself. By year's end, I aim to achieve this milestone while also cherishing moments with my family, living fully in the present.



Pedro Melendez

Persuasive Influence, Dynamic Leadership

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

Hard work and perseverance pay off. Due diligence one step at a time can lead to the expected and unexpected (but positive) outcomes.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

TM has helped me to develop self-confidence not only to speak in public but also to communicate on my every day activities: at work, at the store, and any events.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Never stop your journey and be proactive in helping others

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

Mentoring other TMs and clubs is part of my goals for TM.



Marylee D. Mims

Motivational Strategies, Presentation Mastery

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

Planning skills learned in Toastmasters are transferable to other areas of my life. Teamwork builds friendships/sisterhood.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

Improved self-confidence and treasured friendships

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Say “yes” when asked to participate. You learn as you challenge your skills.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

Help others to achieve their goals. In addition, perhaps there will be another DTM in my future.



Diana C. Patton

Dynamic Leadership, Leadership Development

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

My DTM project was beneficial to the entire club. The trick is continual educating on the tool that is helpful in scheduling and maintaining meeting roles and verifying Pathways projects.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

I've enjoyed every step in my Toastmasters journey. Meeting amazing people and serving with them in club and district activities has made me a better person. Meeting Toastmasters from around the world is something I never expected when I joined in 2003. The best part is the friendships I've made.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Work to become a better version of yourself. Learn from others. Be willing to step out of your comfort level to stretch yourself.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

Considering completing requirements for other DTM. Continue to learn, make new friends, support others.



Elena Swindull

Innovative Planning, Dynamic Leadership

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

It takes a team. The true success of any big project truly takes a team! It takes collective effort, creativity, and the support of the whole team that bring the project to life. The DTM project experience taught me that teamwork isn't just about getting the job done; it's about building relationships, fostering trust, and celebrating collective achievements.

Together, we can accomplish great things!

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

Participating in Toastmasters has had a profound impact on my life. It has given me the confidence and skills to communicate effectively, which is crucial both personally and professionally. The growth I've experienced in Toastmasters has been transformative, empowering me to approach all aspects of life with greater confidence and a more positive outlook.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Embrace the process and commit to consistent practice, it takes dedication and effort. Take every opportunity to give speeches, lead roles in meetings, and participate in club activities. The nervousness you feel at first will gradually turn into confidence, and you'll find yourself growing in ways you never imagined.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

Achieving the Distinguished Toastmaster award has been an incredible milestone for me, representing years of hard work, growth, and collaboration. Now that I've reached this peak, my focus is on applying the skills I've developed to work towards growing my business and achieving even greater success.



David Winkowski

Dynamic Leadership, Innovative Planning

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

Organization and the flexibility to accommodate diverse needs and wants.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

It provided an avenue to climb out of a rut by getting me out of my comfort zone, and expanding in ways I never thought possible.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Treat each project as a new learning opportunity, not as a check box. To really get the most out of Toastmasters, look beyond your home club and explore what other clubs and district service has to offer.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

Continuing to pursue personal growth through continued leverage of the opportunities that Toastmasters has to offer – perhaps even a second DTM.



Patricia M. Wyatt

Persuasive Influence, Engaging Humor

What did you learn through your DTM Project?

I discovered significant outreach potential in aligning with Rotary clubs and connecting with our high school students who represent the next generation of Toastmasters. I also learned that my project should not have an expiration date – it's a valuable tool and opportunity.

How has your Toastmasters Participation affected your life?

Toastmasters changed the trajectory of my future. I joined Toastmasters to attack head on a profound fear of public speaking. I realized that I was standing in the way of my own success by letting the fear of judgment take over. I embraced that my life can look completely different, that I can command a stage, that I can explore new opportunities, that I am a role model for others to find their confidence and find their voice.

What advice would you give to other Toastmasters?

Establish and commit to your goals. Say yes to opportunities that align with those goals. Compete in a contest. Then, look for ways to give back. Become a mentor. Accept a leadership role ... and then another one. Be involved in youth leadership development. These decisions will pay off tenfold in your Toastmasters journey.

Now that you have achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award, what is your next goal?

I want to develop some soft skills workshops, prepare some keynote speeches while continuing to mentor and empower others to find their voice.

Adventure Wordsearch

C R Q V O H X Q A N F G T M B Y Y V D N G F X R C
L G O R W E C D M O D N Z S E E F L O J G P G M Q
V T T A K V V Z W I C L P S U R G I P V Q U E S T
A F T L M E I G T T M C S P H L T O Y F N B U X I
K V A V N H R Q J A G Y Z L K I R C T N V X A X L
C L Q T Y G T T C R D H Z N D X P E N P O R V X W
V C U U P R R P G O Q U R E D S E O D Y A D E X Z
B R N F C I E J F L I B P U P G C D N N J L N J N
E K O H E G K Y N P D X F U O F G B U F A E I J I
H P E N V E Z P N X E D I S C O V E R Y D W L B D
E X Z Q R O O E C E K X M Z O F C E A A B R A C H
S G N G L R W C V U B P R I G S D C P Y I Z N Y M
T C A N O I T I D E P X E U S C E A V A D B E L W
I W T Y Y P P H F M C Q U K Q R C G T X R O R F C
J H D P O D C O F O G G A O H S Y C Z H A K D M H
D O C O N V A T E A C D B V E P C F P V R I A U A
T Y U T R A V E R S E Y S J H B N D B W V I S I L
C W F R G J Q K W J J H W Q T D I Z I J O D L W L
V N C L N U A T Y P P Z G F G G T Y R I Q I F L E
G T V P Y E O T F N O I S R U C X E A I C J D K N
T D P Z O V Y Q N W O A R Q L O E X F V S Y C Q G
E X Q L W F U P I H U T R Q H D P H A X U O B O E
H S T U V E U Y T Z O L S O O E D O S A Y P T P L
U F R V S V X Z K W C Y A L C E X E K Z F E G R A
Z O R T C G E Y B X P W F L F I J Y P Z S P B V R

Adrenaline

Adventure

Challenge

Discovery

Escapade

Excursion

Expedition

Expedition

Exploration

Journey

Odyssey

Quest

Quest

Roam

Safari

Thrill

Traverse

Trek



Passport to Network

Find new friends who have accomplished the following. If you find 10 before the raffle, visit the D25 registration desk for a bonus raffle ticket.

Climbed a mountain _____

Gone skydiving. _____

Traveled to five or more countries. _____

Completed a marathon or other endurance race. _____

Gone scuba diving or snorkeling. _____

Hiked the Appalachian Trail or another long-distance trail. _____

Gone bungee jumping. _____

Done a wilderness survival course. _____

Visited a famous landmark _____

Tried extreme sports _____

Volunteered abroad. _____

Gone on a safari. _____

Sailed across on the ocean. _____

Gone on a backpacking trip lasting longer than a week. _____

Taken a hot air balloon ride. _____

Must include first and last name of the person who matches. Raffle is drawn at 1:15 p.m. Saturday May 11th.

Save the Dates



**And our annual Summit will be in
November...stay tuned!**

Notes

Notes

