



TOASTMASTERS District 46 Newsletter

Together, Let's Transform Lives.

Toastmaster Year 2020/2021. Issue #8 May 2021

Welcome to the eighth edition of your District 46 Newsletter. This month, we hear from our Immediate Past District Director, who talks about the benefits of District leadership roles — and their transferrable skills. In the Member Corner, we learn from a master podcaster about the potential for this new medium — and how our District is using it to better reach and serve its members. For our next newsletters, **we are looking for content contributors and editors**. Do you have an idea for a story? Do you have a link that other Toastmasters should know about? [Let us know!](#)

Introductions-----from your District Director

“Tools for Tomorrow” is the theme of our May 1 virtual District Conference. Our District has not stood still when it comes to those tools, including virtual meeting technologies and social media — all in an effort to better communicate with you.



Each tool has a unique identity and serves a distinct purpose. With so much competition for our attention, don't be overwhelmed, but have a look and follow one or more. Most of our clubs have their own robust presence on social media, too. Most of our meetings and conferences are held remotely using Zoom.

Today, our District communicates with you and the rest of the world through: its website, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Mail Chimp, this newsletter, and now **podcasts**.

Hopefully, we have laid the groundwork. In the coming years, District leaders will continue to use these new technologies as they constantly evolve. It's up to you, too. Like us and follow us on Facebook and bookmark our website — small steps to make your digital life easier and more productive and focused. And join us at the annual District Conference, held virtually for the first time.

[Patricia Kidwingira, DTM](#)

-----from your Immediate Past District Director

Elaine Rogers, DTM, has twice served District 46 as its Director, at its formation in 2008-2009 and again in 2020-2021. She has also served in practically every role in numerous clubs and is now serving in the vital role of Chair for the Rotary International collaboration initiative.

At the January 30 District Leadership Summit, Elaine participated in a panel discussion where the question came up: What skills do District officers and leadership learn that they can use in their everyday occupations? As the Toastmasters year draws to a close and members consider taking those roles, now is a good time to reflect (with Elaine's help) on how those roles can help your personal and career development.

She first cautioned not to become a District officer or leader if you can't commit to “being there when they need you” and can see the rewards of answering and helping club officers. But, if you can say yes to both conditions, her answers were direct and succinct:

- You will learn and become an expert in time management as you both plan and make time to “fight fires”.
- You will become the most effective people manager you can be. “If you can manage volunteers, you can manage anyone”. She reports that even difficult employee evaluations became easy due to her experience as a Toastmasters speech evaluator. Use the “sandwich method” of constructive criticism between two praises, she recommends. [Elaine Rogers, DTM](#)



🔗 s to check out this month

On our [District website](#), be sure to check out *New & Noteworthy* for the latest on the [virtual District conference, Tools for Tomorrow](#), on Friday, April 30 & Saturday, May 1.

View the candidates nominated for the top three Division positions and Division Directors: [2021-2022 elections](#).

Stay up-to-date with the [District 46 Special Event Calendar](#).

The weekend starting April 30 will be packed with events, including:

Friday, April 30 at 6:00 P.M.	Pre-event social online
Saturday, May 1 starting at 10:00 A.M.	Main District conference
Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 P.M.	International Speech and Table Topics contests

- A pre-event social online **Friday, April 30 at 6:00 P.M.** Chat and chill with a cool drink. Celebrate newcomers and new Distinguished Toastmasters. Then, join fellow Toastmasters in Affinity Break Out Rooms (Corporate, Community, College, Specialty). [Learn about and register for the pre-event social](#).

- The main District conference **Saturday, May 1 starting at 10:00 A.M.**, which promises to give you the tools you need to become a more confident public speaker and a stronger leader in every area of your life. [Learn about and register for the conference](#).

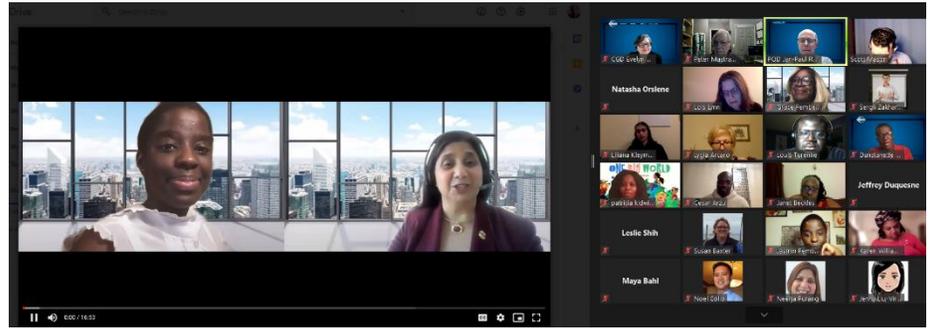


- The best of the best. See and hear District 46's International Speech and Table Topics contests **Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 P.M.** [Register here](#).



Think about sending us your remembrances of loved ones lost in the Covid-19 pandemic. Write a short tribute (about 100 words) and include a picture if you feel that is appropriate. We are planning a presentation during one of our final meetings to honor and remember them. [Patricia Kidwingira, DTM](#)





Something for Every Toastmaster in the New Podcasting Club

As District 46 prepares to launch its own series of podcasts, a new club devoted to podcasting is now being organized. At a demo meeting April 18, your District trio, along with Area 44 director/seasoned podcaster/Roosevelt Island club President Scott Mason, made a compelling case for a Toastmaster to learn about and get involved with podcasting. 30+ Toastmasters joined the demo meeting from as far away as St. Croix, Orlando, and Taipei. District 46 Toastmasters Neerja Purang and Jasmin Pemberton showed everyone a sample podcast.

According to Scott, hosting or participating in a podcast “will improve every area of your professional life” and bring the following benefits:

- Training for today’s technological skills
- Marketing (for yourself or your product)
- Your personal branding
- Possible establishment as a thought leader (even on YouTube, Spotify and other channels)
- Long-lasting connections with guests

But the greatest benefit is your further development of extemporaneous speaking skills. We have all participated in Table Topics, but a podcast offers the chance to take those skills to another, much higher level because a podcast is a true back-and-forth conversation. The best podcasts are freewheeling exchanges that do not follow a script. Along with extemporaneous speaking skills, listening skills also get developed to a higher level.

The proposed club will be a specialty, advanced club, which will require members to have attained at least the CC or Level 2 in Pathways. As a charter member, the fee is \$95 to cover membership to March 2022. (Toastmasters waives the usual \$125 initiation fee during the Covid-19 pandemic).

The club will hold regular meetings, expected to be mostly online, and produce outputs – a pre-recorded audio and visual podcast episode at least every week. The podcasts will be publicized through the club’s website, a YouTube channel, as well as placement on Spotify and other outlets.

District Director Patricia Kidwingira noted that the District’s development of its own podcasting series is underway and its first episode can be seen and heard at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrooT_DXC3ptvfOXq_-y5TA. She added that she sees the proposed club as a way for members to develop skills further and launch their own podcasts — and that embracing this new technology may attract new members.

Toastmasters has recognized podcasts as an important new speaking platform by adding it to the many skills to be mastered in the Pathways learning experience. Developing and delivering a podcast is a Level 4 elective in many Pathways choices. An article in the January 2021 issue of Toastmasters magazine describes the nuts and bolts of podcasting (“[Is There a Podcast in Your Future?](#)”). Another article in the April 2021 issue offers tips and tricks (“[Podcasting with a Purpose](#)”).

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