

# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL D63 INTERCHANGE

**District News and Events** 

#### **District 63**

Fall 2017 Volume 7, Issue 1

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Meet Your District Director
Pathways: Fall in Love
Mission Possible
International Convention Highlights
Around the District
D63 Fall Conference
D63 Leadership Directory
6 Rules of Humor
D63 BINGO

#### **Touch Points**

http://d63.toastmastersdistricts.org facebook.com/D63Toastmasters

#### **Newsletter Contacts**

The D63 Interchange Newsletter is published by the District Public Relations Team.

For article submissions or comments, please email us at: district63communication@gmail.com

### **Meet Your District Director, Jimmie Roberts**

Jimmie Roberts grew up on his family's small dairy farm in rural Kentucky along the edge of the Appalachian Mountains. To support the family of five, his parents sold burley tobacco, various vegetables and country hams. During the days, he'd be found helping out the family by working

"I am honored to serve as your 2017-2018 District 63 Director and hope each of you will strive to help each other, each member, each club, each area, and each division to reach excellence." in hay
fields and
mucking out
barns. In his
free time,
Roberts
remembers,
"I would
play
basketball
alone or
walk about

a half-mile across the fields where a neighboring family had eight children and this was enough for a few competitive games." Growing up in this tight-knit

community are why Roberts still considers himself as part of the "Big Blue Nation."

After High School, Roberts decided it was time to see the world and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After just three months in service he was trained in iet aircraft mechanics and was soon promoted to Crew Chief on a C-130 aircraft. "My first permanent duty station was in Smyrna TN." Roberts said. "This provided many new and challenging opportunities, one of which was to meet Laura who is now my wife and mother to four children and grandmother five grandchildren."

His unit's primary Air Force missions were to drop

paratroopers into training or combat locations around the world and to move other Air Force units from their home bases to forward bases in areas of concern. Throughout his four years of service, he traveled to many locations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Roberts learned many new customs and began developing his leadership skills. In his spare time. Roberts enrolled in night courses at the University of Tennessee Extension School in Nashville. There, he learned how to create Engineering Drawings. After fulfilling his commitment to the Air Force, he was hired as a draftsman for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Nashville where he produced engineering drawings for the Percy Priest Dam, among other things.

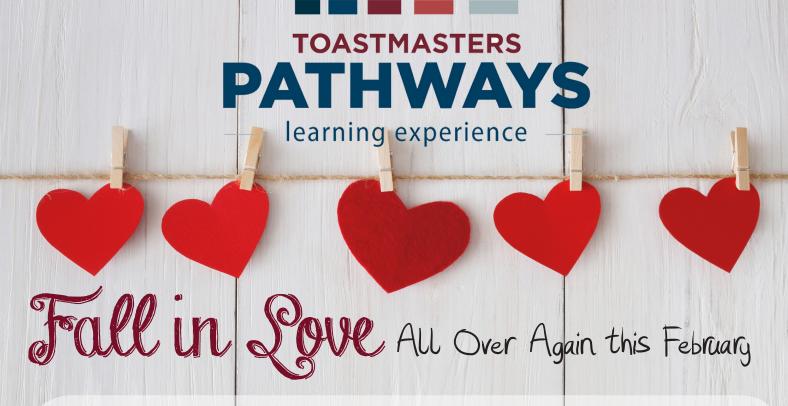
The next major stop in his life's journey was to enroll full-time at Tennessee Tech, continued on pg. 11



Home Club: (first) Tennessee Talkers Toastmasters, (second) Heart of Tennessee Toastmasters

Active Since: July 2004 Offices Held: Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Club Extension Chair, Division Governor (2), Area Governor (2), Club President, Club VPE, Club VPM, Club VPPR

Theme for the year: Strive for Excellence in everything we do. Excellence is not something beyond our reach. It is something that we all can do. Perhaps it is best defined by this quote from John W. Gardiner who said, "Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well."



In 2010, the Toastmasters Board of Directors crafted a five-year strategic plan that laid out the goals and objectives for the organization over the next five years. The plan's centerpiece? A call to revitalize the Toastmasters education program.

Much of the communication track hadn't been updated since the 1970s, and leadership became a separate track in 2005. The Board stressed the need to modernize the communication track and to renew the focus on leadership learning in the leadership track.

That original vision marked the beginning of a hugely ambitious effort to enhance the education program. The new program, called Toastmasters Pathways, offers members more opportunities to learn and grow, highlighted by greater access to educational materials, expanded tools and resources, and a customized learning experience designed to help individuals meet personal and professional goals.

Toastmasters International began pilot testing the program in January 2017, and has been slowly rolling out the program district by district. Recently, District 63 received the news that the rollout for Pathways has been approved for Region #5. This means our district will have the opportunity start Pathways in **February 2018**!

When PQD, Lindy Estep, used the tag line, "Leading Through Transition" in his election campaign, he had expected a much slower transition. "Pathways is coming to District 63 sooner than expected and I get to work with our Ambassador Team to see if I can fulfil that promise," Estep said. "I am nervously excited about this opportunity. However, I am lucky to be surrounded by a great team of leaders in both our Ambassador Team and the our District Leadership, I know that we will work with our membership to create the best experience possible."

Kim Santan was recently appointed as the Chief Ambassador for District 63. "With Don Bittick's election to the Toastmasters Board of Directors, a vacant spot became available for Chief Ambassador. Since my term in the District Trio came to an end on June 30, it was a perfect time to transition into the role of Chief Ambassador. I have very large shoes to fill coming behind Don, but Don has graciously agreed to mentor me through this process and I am confident our members will help on this journey" said Santan.

Pathways Ambassadors are preparing to meet with club officers over the next few months to help prepare everyone for the transition. Assigned Ambassadors can be found below and on the following pages. Pathway Guides will also be selected in the coming months to help with the technical piece of Pathways.

For more information on the Pathways program, visit www. toastmasters.org/education/pathways or contact Kim Santan, Chief Ambassador at thesantan5@gmail.com or Lindy P. Estep, Program Quality Director at lindyestep@gmail.com.

		Ambassador Wendy Lick			Ambassador Yvonne Hart		
B B B	10 10 10	Wednesday Orators Club Tuesday Toasters Toastmasters Club Twilight Toasters Club	B B	20 20	West Knoxville Club Speechmasters Advanced Toastmasters Club		
В	10	Lakeway Area Toastmasters	В	20	The Morning Cup		
В	11	Twin City Toasters Club	В	20	Clayton Toastmasters Club		
В	11	Northeast Advanced Toastmasters Club	В	21	Summit Medical Group Toastmasters		
В	11 11	Toast to Education Club	B B	21 21	Whirlpool Elite Toastmasters		
B B	11	Speaking Dynamically Wolf Hills Toastmasters	В	21	Toasted Fury 9040 PFJ Masters		
		vvon rimo rodotridotoro	В	21	SNI Toastmasters		
		Ambassador Shaun Markwardt			Ambassador Stacci Thomas		
В	22	Oak Ridge Toastmasters Club	С	30	Monday Mumblers Toastmasters Club		
В	22	Energy Valley Toastmasters Club	С	30	Speaking Frankly Toastmasters Club		
В	22	TIC Talk Club	С	30	Wordspinners Club		
В	22	Watts-Up Toasters	C	30	McKee Foods Smile Wrappers Club		
B B	23 23	Pellissippi Club Central Communicators Toastmasters Club	C	31 31	Chatter Masters Club  Downtown Dazzlers Club		
В	23	Fountain City Club	C	31	Unum Toastmasters Club		
В	23	Downtown Speakers Club	C	31	Hixson		
-			C	31	Forge To Finish Toastmasters Club		
		Ambassador Mark LePara			Ambassador Elizabeth Lindsey		
С	32	Chattanooga BCBST Hill Toppers	D	40	Metro Leaders Club		
С	32	Chattanooga Chatters Advanced	D	40	Savvy Speakers		
		Toastmasters	D	41	Heart Of Tennessee Toastmasters Club		
С	32	Blue Masters Club	D	41	Maury County Toastmasters		
С	32	Atomic Windbags	D	41	Franklin Toastmasters Club		
D D	40 40	Let's Talk Franklin Club Prime Meridians	D D	41 41	True Blue Talkers Schneider's Electric Toasters		
D	42	The Optimizers	D	42	Brentwood Early Risers Toastmasters Club		
E	50	Speak Up NASBA	D	72	Bientwood Early Nisers Toasimasters Olab		
D	42	Parthenon Club					
		Ambassador Maureen Proctor			Ambassador Chelsea Cooper		
D	42	Brentwood Evening Club	E	51	BMI Keynotes		
D	42	Nissan Toastmasters	E	52	Nashville Toastmasters		
E	50	Nashville Elec Service Club	E	52	Harpeth View Toastmasters		
E	50	Skyline Raconteurs	E	52	Music City Club		
E E	50 51	Source Masters Caterpillar FPD Club	E E	52 52	Nashville Tech Toastmasters Club Metroplex Motivators		
Ē	51	HCA Creative Articulators Club	E	54	James K. Polk Toastmasters Club		
Ē	51	Vanderbilt Toastmasters	Ē	54	Asurion Toastmasters		
E	51	Fearless Communicators	Ē	50	HCA Artful Articulators		
		Ambassador Jeri Steele			Ambassador Sheila Gail Corbin		
E	54	Canned Conversationalists	F	62	Donelson Early Birds Club		
E	54	UBS Nashville Toastmasters Club	F	62	Rivergate Toastmasters Club		
E	54	TGL Toastmasters Club	F	62	Deipnosophists Club		
F	60	Springfield Igniters Club	F	62	Bridgestone Babblers		
F	60	Hendersonville Club	F	63	Cookeville Club		
F F	60 60	Tennessee Talkers Club Thoroughbred Toastmasters Club	F F	63 63	Lebanon Toastmasters Club  Mt Juliet Toastmasters Club		
F	60	Toastera	F	63	Cracker Barrel Club		



When I began my Toastmaster journey seven years ago, all I wanted to do was to learn how to communicate better. I desperately wanted to be able to talk to people without blushing, looking or feeling stupid. That's was it. Toastmasters was a fun. safe place to visit and I had several coworkers persuading me to come to a meeting. Several months later, after many offers of "come hear me speak," "we have food to eat" and "there's no pressure, just come and check it out," I finally acquiesced. Stepping out of my comfort zone, finding time to do something I'd never done before and the fear of the unknown was conquered.

Guess what? Not only did I survive, but I kept coming back for more. I fell in love with the whole idea that becoming a better communicator was fun and so much better than I ever imagined. Have I arrived? No Way. Can I still improve my speaking skills? You bet. But with each assignment, I gain more confidence and improve my presentation and leadership skills.

You see, Toastmasters is like building blocks. You take the things you learn in one assignment and add them to another, building upon the principles you learned before. Then you take these skills you've practiced and add them to new experiences to progress

further up the chain of knowledge. If you never stop, always looking forward to the mark, you will develop yourself into an expert presenter and known leader.

Working for the District

is a great and exciting experience. It has opened up many doors I never thought I would ever walk through and the excitement grows with every turn. Our mission is to build new clubs, while at the same time, retain the clubs we have. Therefore we set out to do Mission Impossible this year. Our mission is to become a Presidential Distinguished District. Our RA. Parron Shannon, told us to aim high, to reach for the stars and set seemingly impossible goals. If we do this the Toastmasters will rise to the occasion. That's how the challenge began.

It has been 28 years since our District was a Presidential District. The leadership cannot do this alone. If we are to accomplish this impossible mission and turn it into a possible mission, it is clear what we need to do. "Every One Recruit One." We ask for every member to do their best to recruit at least one new member this year. We ask for every club to work hard at membership retention so we won't

The District 63 Leadership team have set the following major goals for this year. They are:

Charter 2 new clubs in each of our 5 divisions for a total of 10 new clubs.

While these goals are stretch goals for us, they can surely be attained if we all are working smartly, cooperatively, and with excellence in mind.

Let's all think daily to "Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected." - Steve Jobs at Apple.

How these goals will be met:

By supporting each other, we will find that we are: "Achieving Excellence Together!"

lose any clubs. And we encourage every Division to charter two new clubs. This is our Mission Impossible goal.

With your help, we will turn the impossible Mission into a Possible Mission. Let's make it a "Possible Mission." If everyone gets on board the Possible Mission Train, this is what will happen: Every single Division will become Presidential. Wouldn't it be nice to see all 5 divisions become Presidential and the District become Presidential?

We will have more distinguished clubs than ever before, and the people will be asking, "How did you do it?"





**Bridgestone Babblers** 



James K. Polk



**NES Toastmasters** 



Clayton Technologies



Hendersonville Toastmasters



Music City Toastmasters



## **2017 International Convention Highlights**

#### D63 Member Appointed at Toastmasters International Director, Region 5



Donald F. Bittick, DTM, of Franklin, Tennessee, is a project manager and business analyst for HCA Healthcare, in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has worked for 31 years. He has led and served on many diverse teams made up of people with varying skill sets, backgrounds, cultures and ages at one of the largest healthcare companies in the world.

Bittick holds a bachelor's degree of science in computer technology from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He received the Caring for the Community award, the highest award for community service at HCA,

because of his work with local nonprofit agencies. Don also served on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County in Tennessee. He was responsible for organizing the second largest fundraising event - and e annual 5K Thanksgiving Day race.

A Toastmaster since 2001, Bittick is a member of his home club, HCA Creative Articulators, in Nashville. He has held a number of high-profile leadership positions within Toastmasters and attained the Distinguished Toastmaster designation—the highest level of educational achievement in the organization.

He believes that everyone has a story to tell, but says "they don't always have the confidence to share it with others. I've witnessed many members develop the confidence to share their stories, make lifelong friends and improve their

lives as personal and professional opportunities became available."

As a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, Bittick is a "working ambassador" for the organization. He works with the Board to develop, support and modify the policies and procedures that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission.



(L to R) Don Bittick, International Director, Region 5; Jimmie Roberts, D63 Director; Lindy Estep, D63 Program Quality Director; Jene Coy, D63 Club Growth Director; Philip Bendeich, Region Advisor from Australia.



Toastmasters International President, Balraj Arunasalam, DTM and District 63 District Director at the 2017 International Convention.

## around THE DISTRICT

Division C celebrated Park(ing) Day on Sept. 15 in Chattanooga. (Park)ing day started a little more than 10 years ago when two men who were fed up about the lack of green space in San Francisco turned a parking space into a mini park. Cities all over the country blocked off sections of metered parking Friday so that people could set up fun activities in the spaces.



Clubs, areas and divisions all across the district have been hosting their humorous speech and evaluation contests in preparation for the D63 Fall Conference competition! Here are some highlights from these events.



Division C Winners: Mark Oshman (1st in Humor); Sandra Neal (1st in Evaluation); and John Hood (2nd in Humor & Evaluation)



Slish (first in Evaluation) win at the Area 42 Contest







## Early Bird Rate Extended to Oct. 16 for this Year's District 63 Fall Conference in Chattanooga!

Toastmaster's District 63 Fall Conference is an event where district leaders, club officers and members of all levels gather to learn directly from some of Toastmaster's most inspirational speakers. At this year's fall conference, attendees will be able to experience the best that Toastmaster's has to offer, including networking opportunities, speech contests and educational sessions. This unique experience will leave you energized, inspired and prepared to innovate for success.

#### **INSPIRING SPEAKERS & PANELS**



Keynote speaker, Lark Doley, DTM, of Jonestown, Texas, is a senior training coordinator for MAXIMUS,

and a 25-year vetran of Toastmasters. As an officer of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, Doley is a "working ambassador" for the organization, helping the Board to develop, support and modify the policies and procedures that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission.

#### **ENGAGING WORKSHOPS**

Gain new skills and insight from these hands-on workshops including:

- Navigating Change, Sheila Corbin
- Pour In, Pour Out & Pour With -The Flow of Successful Mentoring, Doug Smith
- Avoid Conflict and Conquer Confrontation, Jeanetta Cothron
- Fun with Benefits, Megan Gass
- Technology, Innovation and Ideation, Trever Ehrlich
- Communicating Complex Ideas, Vahah Hartoonia

## EXCITING NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss your opportunity to participate in the Chili Cookoff, battle it out at the silent auction tables and make new connections with other Toastmasters across the district.

#### **COMPETITION IS GOOD!**

Cheer on participants in the Evaluation Contest. Laugh out loud during the Humorous Speech Contest. But most of all, enjoy learning from the best in the district!



#### **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Friday, Nov. 10 4 - 10 p.m.

Check-in/Registration 4 - 6 p.m. First Time Attendee Orientation Opening Session Keynote Presentation Evaluation Contest

Saturday, Nov. 11 6:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Check-in 6:30 - 8a.m.
General Sessions
Business Meeting
Silent Auction & District Store
Education & Marketing Awards
Breakout Sessions
Humorous Speech Contest
Awards Presentations

#### **Want More?**

Attend the Leading Edge Pre-Conference Event!

D63 has assembled an elite team of dynamic trainers for this one day, two-track event.

Sessions are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10, and end at 4 p.m. A networking lunch is included. Continual Education Units (CEU) are available for some sessions.

A limited number of seats are still available to D63 members at a cost of \$117 each, but you'll need to act fast to reserve your seat.

Register Now at http://bit.ly/D63Edge

can win your club some serious Three Ways to Win! Option #1 Option #2 Option #1 Work with your Option #3 club members and prepare a basket for the silent auction (a holiday theme is recommended). Option #2 Amass a trove of Door Prizes and/or registration bag giveaway items. Quantity and quality will both Option #3 be considered Conduct a club-level fund raiser and donate the proceeds to the conference.

Helping with this year's Fall Conference

Three winners will be chosen - one from each category.

The winning clubs will receive \$25.00 in Conference Cash to be applied to EACH member that registers the D63 Spring Conference.

Enter to win at http://bit.ly/WinMeD63Cash

## Register Today at http://bit.ly/D63FallCon17

#### Enjoy Your Stay at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chattanooga Downtown







\$119 - Early bird hotel rate (must register before 10/16/17) \$189 - Hotel rate after 10/16/17

407 Chestnut St, Chattanooga, TN 37402 Call to Book Your Stay Now! (423) 756-5150



## TOASTMASTERS 2017-18 DISTRICT 63 LEADERSHIP



**District Director, Jimmie Roberts**Member of: Heart of Tennessee and Tennessee Talkers Clubs.



**Program Quality Director, Lindy Estep** Member of: HCA Artful Articulators and the Deipnosophists Clubs.



Club Growth Director, Jene Coy Member of: Forge to Finish and McKee Foods Smile Wrappers Clubs



Public Rleations Manager, Aleshia Garrett Member of: SpeakUp NASBA



Finance Manager, Cindy Ausberry Member of: Unum Toastmasters Club



Administration Manager, Laura Kraft Member of: Metroplex Motivators Club



Immediate Past District Director, Kim Santan Member of: Unum Toastmasters Club



District Parliamentarian, Donn King Member of: Speechmasters Advanced Club



Club Extension Chair, Mary Mixon Member of: Speechmasters Advanced Toastmasters and The Morning Cup Clubs



Member Retention Chair, Stacci Thomas Member of: Forge to Finish, Speaking Frankly and Downtown Dazzlers Clubs



Club Quality Chair, Rebecca Seymour Member of: Springfield Igniters Club, HCA Artful Articulators and the Deipnosophists Clubs



**Division B Director, Mihaela Hembree**Member of: Speechmasters Advanced Toastmasters and Toasted Fury 9040 and Central Communicators Clubs



**Division C Director, Doug Smith**Member of: Chattanooga BCBST
Hill Toppers and Chattanooga Chatters Advanced Toastmasters



Division D Director, Shawn K. Hawk Member of: Heart of Tennessee and True Blue Talkers



Division E Director, Bryan C. De Cuir Member of: Nashville Tech and Harpeth View Clubs



Division F Director, Jeremy Enders Member of: Rivergate Toastmasters Club

### **6 Rules of Humor**

By Graham Honaker, ACS, CL

#### 1 Find Humor in Everyday Life

Some of the best speeches are inspired by everyday occurrences. In 2013, my wife and I flew with our two young children to Europe. The ensuing chaos on the airplane provided me with enough material to compose my winning speech that year. Think about your everyday life and things that may have a

#### 2 Know Your Audience

humorous twist to them.

In a 2009 speech, I compared the delivery of my first child to a Toastmasters meeting. This would have made little sense to a non-Toastmasters audience, but the humorous comparison (using timing cards to help with my wife's contractions) landed perfectly with my audience. Knowing your audience is important when trying

## 3 It's a Humorous Speech Contest: Be Funny!

The best speeches are funny throughout. Some speakers work up to a big

laugh at the end, so their speeches are void of humor in the introduction and body. This approach leaves your audience wondering, When do I get to laugh? Launch into a joke right off the bat to get the audience warmed up and kick-start your energy level.



#### 4 Use Props

In the 2013 district contest, I brought a suitcase to show how, ideally, one should travel with kids inside a bag. I closed the speech by donning a pilot's cap. Think about effective props that can enhance your humor.

5 Don't Step on Your Laughter

One of the greatest challenges a humorous speaker faces is to avoid stepping on the audience's response. It takes practice, but you have to allow

> your audience the time to laugh and soak in the humor. You can kill a joke entirely by rushing to tell your next one. Use effective pauses to enhance those jokes.

#### 6 Consult with Others

Always run your speech by a mentor or trusted advisor. I have seen several contestants essentially eliminate themselves with humor that was deemed offensive. One of the reasons I am a fan of self-deprecating humor is that you only risk offending yourself!

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Graham Honaker, ACS, CL is a member of the Indy Free Speakers Toast-masters club in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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continued from pg. 1

to land a punchline.

where he completed his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. While there, he also learned about programming analog and digital computers. These computer skills allowed him to get a job using computers to control the manufacturing process of auto and architectural glass.

"Being a person who loves challenges and personal growth I moved through a variety of jobs in the digital computer field including scientific (today called Computer Engineering) and business applications," Roberts said. "One of the business applications was in Financial business segment where I was the leader of a group which produced software for the back office, ATMs and teller lines of credit unions."

Robert's later moved on to become the computer center operations manager for the Defense Industry stationed on Kwajalein, an island in the Marshall Island Chain in the Pacific Ocean. After hours, he and his family would enjoy the 85 degree weather, with the 15 Knot Trade winds and 80 degree water temperature. During this time he also

learned to sail and scuba dive.

"I would literally swim among the sharks!" said Roberts. "I made a total of 62 dives with some being at night. Half of those dives had me within 30 yards or less of various sharks. What I learned from these experiences is that if you don't take risks you will never feel the highest rewards of knowing that you can accomplish what you set out to do."

As you can tell, Roberts loved diving and found that treasure hunting among sunken aircrafts, boats and ships from the World War II era was both exhilarating and sobering.

"All my life experiences have brought a feeling of richness to me and have contributed to who I am both as a person and as a leader," he said. "As I have travelled the last thirteen years in my Toastmasters journey I have been enriched greatly. I would like to sum those up in my personal motto which is to, Envision, Empower, and Excel."

### **District 63 2017 Incentive for Toastmasters**

All Incentives pending funding availability

District 63 BINGO(July 1, 2017 – May 01, 2018)								
В		N	G	0				
Serve at Area Speech Contest//	Attend a Division Speech Contest//	Pay membership dues to club early (by 9/01/17 or 3/01/17)	Serve at Division Speech Contest//	Serve at a kick off/demo meeting				
Served as a Club Officer//	Sponsor 3 new, reinstated, or dual members for your club //	Give Club Growth Director a new lead that charters//	Attend 2017 Summer TLI //_	Give a speech at another club				
Complete a CL Manual //	Bring a guest to a club meeting	TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL	Become a Club Sponsor or Mentor//	Visit another club in your area //				
Visit another club in another district	Volunteer on a District 63 Committee//	Attend the District 63 Spring Conference//	Complete a CC Manual //	Present at a District TLI//				
Write an article for your club website or Newsletter //	Attend the District 63 Fall Conference//	Visit District 63 website and view D63 Calendar //	Attend Area Speech Contest //	Mentor a new club member				
Rules: Write the date in the block when you complete a task during July 1, 2017 to May 01, 2018; only one task per Toastmasters meeting or event. You win BINGO if you get five across, five down, five diagonal or								

four corners.

Prizes: Prizes to be announced at a later date. One prize per member. BINGO wins are limited.

Contest starts July 1, 2017 and ends May 01, 2018. Completed cards can be emailed to <u>Jenecoy@gmail.com</u> and must be received by May 15, 2017. Winners will be published on D63 website.

Your Name:	Date:	
Club Name:	Club No:	
Club Officer Signature:		