



**District Director's Report
on Toastmasters International Board of Directors Briefing held in Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, on 20 August 2025**

The theme for the Toastmasters International convention was **"Envision Y(our) Next Move."**

Envisioned Future

Toastmasters is a thriving and diverse global community. We enhance the personal lives and careers of individuals, enabling them to positively impact their communities. We empower people to develop communication and leadership skills through a welcoming, high-quality, experiential learning environment, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

The convention was held on 20-23 August and was attended by approximately 1,300 delegates from around the globe. Events taking place over the four days included the Board of Directors Briefing, Annual Business Meeting, International Speech semi-finals, the World Champion of Public Speaking contest, various inspirational and motivational educationals, and accredited speaker presentation. The convention was preceded by the District Leaders Training (DLT) on the 18 and 19 August where approximately 400 leaders from around the globe attended. Training was focused on the foundations of team resilience, communicating value, district strategies and strengthening leadership skills. The energy, sharing of ideas, collaboration, reconnections and the rekindling of friendships made the training meaningful, exciting and fun. Training rooms and refreshments throughout the two days of training were of the same high standard as in previous years.

Radhi Spear – outgoing International President provided updates as follows:

- A research on companies/organisations that last over 100 years shows that only half a percent survive 100+ years – and Toastmasters is one of them.
- The new member fee will increase to US\$25 (from US\$20) effective 1 October 2025. There is no change to the current membership fee.
- Pathways has had some significant updates. They include the addition of the Better Speaker Series and the Successful Club Series into levels 4 and 5 of current paths, effective from October 2025, and the addition of the first Ralph Smedley Training Manual (written in c.1940) as a Path from 2026.
- The legacy Competent Communication Manual and Advanced Communication Manual will be reintroduced to Pathways from 2026.
- Service time from WHQ has been reduced to 12 hours. We have already experienced some quick turnaround times.



Daniel Rex, CEO, presented his report and here are some of the highlights.

- A total of 37 (out of 100) districts achieved Distinguished, Select, President's, or Smedley Distinguished levels in the District Recognition Program in the 2024-2025 year. This is an increase of 12.1% compared to the 2023-2024 program year, and the highest number of achieving districts since 2018-2019, when there were 38.
- Membership payments in the 2024-2025 program year decreased by 1.5% compared to the 2023-2024 program year. Total membership payments received during the year amounted to 549,007.
- Total paid clubs across the organisation dropped only slightly during the 2024-2025 program year to 13,833 – a 0.1% decrease from 2023-2024.
- New and suspended clubs - there were 951 total new clubs and 817 clubs suspended during the 2024-2025 program year. While the number of new clubs decreased a little compared to 2023-2024, this is the first time since 2020-2021 that new clubs outpaced suspensions.
- Regions reformation – regions 1-7 have completed their reformation. The new districts will take effect from 1 July 2026. The next to be realigned are Regions 8-14. No timeframe was mentioned, however, the new requirement is for districts to have 120-180 clubs.
- The average club size in 2024-2025 is 18 members, compared with 17.3 in 2023-2024.
- Education awards - throughout the program year, members earned 108,263 educational awards, a 13.1% increase compared to 2023-2024. There was a higher number of awards earned in each level of Pathways, particularly in Levels 3 and 4, with a 19.4% and 20.9% increase respectively, over last year.
- Distinguished clubs - there were 6,737 clubs that reached Distinguished, Select, or President's Distinguished status during the 2024-2025 program year. This is an overall increase of 5.5% compared to last year.

In summary, the two days of district leaders training attended by Mark Tweedale (Program Quality Director), Sandeep Kinge (Club Growth Director) and me were intense but rewarding. We were inspired by new ideas in strategic planning, team resilience and what makes a club a quality club. A quote from Dr Ralph Smedley, founder of Toastmasters International, said, "The Toastmasters club which has the right sort of program does not lose its members."

The most inspiring messages I took away from the training was: "The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing," and "working together we can achieve success."

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