

# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

## NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 59



Belgium France Luxembourg Monaco Netherlands

[WWW.DISTRICT59.ORG](http://WWW.DISTRICT59.ORG)

June 2024



## Editorial

Dear District 59 Members,

At the end of my second term as District Director, for my final contribution, I look ahead to the future. Over this past year, as our membership and clubs have grown, our members continue to thrive, as the high number of Distinguished Clubs testifies. It is both my hope and expectation that we will continue this trend in the coming year under the guidance of Ilona Ruitenbergh, my successor. I hope all the incoming Club and District Officers will have fun and learn a great deal in their upcoming term. Please support them by appreciating the time they devote to organizing club meetings, contests and conferences, and visiting your clubs. Be open, transparent, and cooperative to benefit all our members. Provide feedback to help them grow in their role. They will appreciate it! :)

**Arnout Nederpelt | D59 District Director**

## Summary

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TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 59

*Show us that you are the best!*

**Smedley Award**  
August 1-September 30

## Smedley Award Challenge

Ever heard of the Smedley Award, named in honor of Ralph Smedley? The Smedley Award Challenge runs from August 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024.

To qualify your club:

Register five members (new, dual membership, or reinstated) from August 1 to September 30, 2024. It's as simple as that!

## Hall of Fame

Every year, the District grants awards to recognize the exceptional service and dedication of individual Toastmasters. The last day of the Antwerp Conference, the Toastmasters below received an award at the Hall of Fame ceremony!

1. Vicki Gerber:  
Area Director of the Year
2. Leon Von der Ploeg:  
Division Director of the Year
3. Milena Loga: Toastmaster of the Year
4. Stéphanie Tamas:  
Toastmaster of the Year
5. Amol Palve: Toastmaster of the Year
6. Iana Iatsun: Appreciation Award
7. Arnaud Sartre: Appreciation Award
8. Kirsti Gjertsen: Appreciation Award
9. Lévi Claes: Appreciation Award

### Leon Van der Ploeg, Division Director



The Division Director of the Year award came as a big surprise! I don't do this in real life, so Toastmasters gave me the chance to develop my self-confidence. Special thanks to Grace Karijomedjo, Director Area G1. Looking forward to being D59 Club Growth Assistant in 2024-25.



### Jack Gilbey, Division Director

The first in-person Division contest since 2019 was special, with more attendees from across Belgium. I learned a lot about event management and effective delegation. Having workshops again at the Division conference was also satisfying. Special thanks to Liege Toastmasters' Clément Nachawati for outstanding collaboration.



View these awards on the D59 web site:  
<https://www.district59.org/annual-awards/>

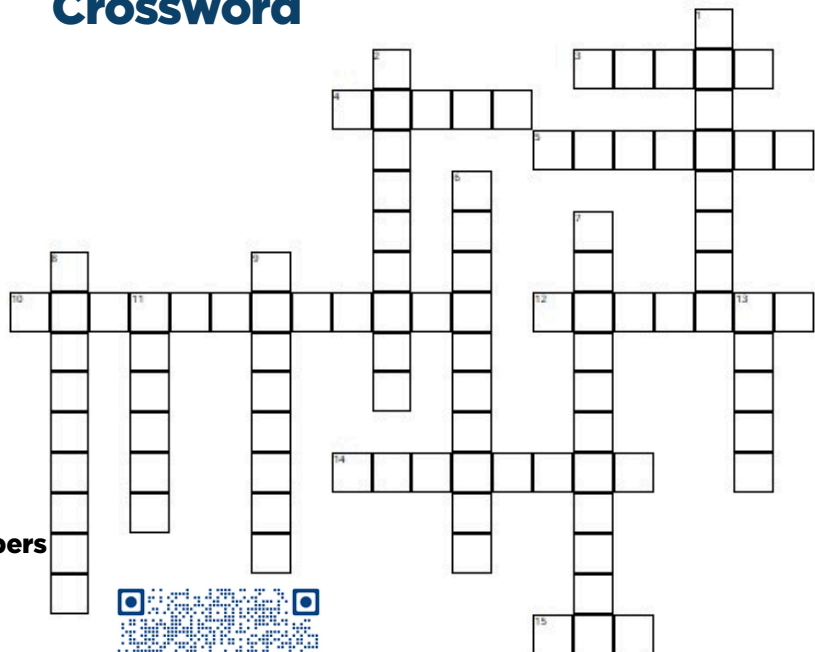
### Across

3. Leads a conference or a committee
4. Club open to young people
5. Regular gathering of members
10. Become masters of public speaking
12. Online topic presentation session
14. Supports the goals of Divisions, Areas and Clubs
15. Toastmasters' highest distinction

### Down

1. Hierarchical level just below District
2. Facilitates meeting management
6. Publishes District news
7. Program to present speaking basics to non-members
8. Interactive presentation sessions
9. Toastmasters Learning Program
11. Occurs at most Toastmasters meetings
13. Recognition given to a member

### Crossword



Solve online!

[www.educol.net/crosswords/d59\\_newsletter\\_crossword-a9955f19bfa2df5ef09fc9e89ed2799c](http://www.educol.net/crosswords/d59_newsletter_crossword-a9955f19bfa2df5ef09fc9e89ed2799c)



# District Calendar

## COT

June 29, 2024

Division A | COT

<https://forms.gle/DMusEEYLzHmziKmv8>

July 6, 2024

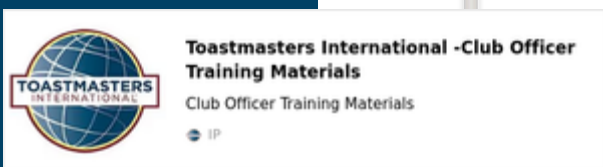
- COT F2 (French) Div. F

<https://forms.gle/aGk3MBTsURX4FKPy8>

- In-person COT (FR-EN) Div. D, Luxembourg
- In-person COT (NL) Div. G, De Wieken, Pr. Irenestraat 49, 6661 EA Elst - 10am-3pm



More details



## Incoming officers

<https://www.district59.org/district-team-2024-2025/>

### Coreteam:

District Director: Ilona Ruitenber  
 PQD: Gilles Bacquet  
 CGD: Amol Palve  
 PRM: Stéphanie Tamas  
 Finance Manager:  
 Shashidhar Bangalore Lakshmana

Administration Manager:  
 Paul Appeldoorn  
 IT Manager: David Sargent  
 Parliamentarian:  
 Colleen Shaughnessy-Larsson

### Division Directors:

A - Pascale Leroy  
 B ★★★★★  
 C - Peter Mestrum  
 D - Christos Peolidis

E - Frank Cremer  
 F - Wendy Buckley  
 G - Lucy Sennef

### Area Directors:

A1 - Badia Belkouchi  
 A2 - Philippe Minh Nguyen  
 A3 - Ramatoulaye Rosine Sousso  
 A4 - Diako Niakate  
 A5 - Teddy Candale  
 A6 - Stephne Gantzer  
 B1 - ★★★★★  
 B2 - ★★★★★  
 B3 - Clément Nachawati  
 B4 - ★★★★★  
 C1 - Tereza Herodkova  
 C2 - Lulu Tzeng  
 C3 - ★★★★★

D1 - Ewa Stacewitz  
 D2 - Livier Guidat  
 D3 - ★★★★★  
 E1 - Linda de Corte  
 E2 - Haris Mexas  
 E3 - Alois Popp  
 E4 - Justina Segers  
 F1 - David Remoue  
 F2 - Romain Kouroupis  
 F3 - José-Manuel Sanchez  
 F4 - ★★★★★  
 G1 - Guido Van Walbeckt  
 G2 - Quirijn Van Der Peet  
 G3 - Agata Kozuchowicz

## Whazzat?

Paths Being Retained	Paths Being Dropped
Dynamic Leadership	Effective Coaching
Engaging Humor	Innovative Planning
Motivational Strategies	Leadership Development
Presentation Mastery	Strategic Relationships
Persuasive Influence	Team Collaboration
Visionary Communication	

The New Learning Management System (LMS)!

- Number of paths reduced from 11 to 6 (Note: The other five paths will continue to exist, and members can continue working on them, but they will not be updated or included in the new LMS. After the new LMS launches, they will no longer be available for purchase.)
- New mobile interface, in both English and French
- Completed paths and levels recorded automatically in Club Central after validation in Base Camp
- Easier interactivity with social networks such as LinkedIn
- New Explorations: Inclusive Leadership and Presenting Yourself Online (note: not currently part of the DCP)

Check out Pathways this Summer!





# 2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors is composed of 19 elected officers and directors and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Toastmasters International Board Members are elected each year at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM), a yearly assembly of the voting members of Toastmasters International.

Every member can help shape the future of the organization. Start by learning about the [International Officer and Director candidates](#) and any proposals for amendments to the [Bylaws of Toastmasters International](#) and the [Club Constitution for Clubs of Toastmasters International](#).

The 2024 Annual Business Meeting will be held on Friday, August 16, at 7 a.m. PDT (Paris Time: Friday, Aug 16 at 4 p.m./16h), on site in California and online. Voting will be conducted electronically.

At the ABM, each Member Club in good standing is entitled to TWO votes from the President and Secretary.



Three steps in the voting process:

1. Assign a proxyholder by August 9, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. PDT (Paris Time: August 10, 2024 at 2:59 p.m./14h59)
2. Any active Toastmasters member may be assigned as club proxyholder. To facilitate the process, however, many clubs choose to designate a District executive as their proxyholder. This year 2024-25 District 59 Director is Ilona Ruitenberg. Contact [dd@district59.org](mailto:dd@district59.org) for instructions on designating Ilona as proxy holder for your club.
3. Proxyholder: Complete Credentials on time.
4. More information about the Credentials process can be found in the Credentials FAQ (link below).
5. Proxyholder: Cast votes at the 2024 ABM held in Anaheim California USA & online on August 16, at 7 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (Paris Time: August 16 at 4 p.m./16h)

For more detailed information:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/events/annual-business-meeting>



**Next newsletter in August**

