

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 59



Belgium France Luxembourg Monaco Netherlands

WWW.DISTRICT59.ORG

October-November 2024



Edito

Dear District 59 Members,

I am excited to serve this year as your District Director. We have embarked on a new Toastmasters year, but we are still glowing from all the goals we achieved last year. We took seven important awards home from Anaheim, California. This success was achieved by all of you. The enthusiasm, and the willingness to connect, learn and strive for quality is something I recognize in the whole district.

We are finally leaving the pandemic years behind us. The new team is ready to serve and help the clubs and their members to achieve their goals. We are building on a firm foundation.

We are part of the best kept secret in the world. Toastmasters is the best investment in yourself to develop your speaking, leadership and communication skills. But above all it is the feeling, the connection and the joy that keeps us together. I am proud to carry the District 59 slogan of this year: "Many journeys, one Toastmasters family".

I hope this inspires you too.

Ilona Ruitenberg | D59 District Director

Summary

Edito	1
Corporate summit 2024	1
Success for District 59	2
Teens Voices in Thionville	2
New LMS is coming	2
2025 Contest Calendar	3
CGD corner	3
TMI Acronyms	3
Ilona Ruitenberg's interview	4
Save the date	4
Rozen & Honing on stage soon	4

CORPORATE SUMMIT 2024

November 26th, 2024.
Rotterdam, NL

READY TO GROW?

- ✓ Why join our team:
- ✓ Professional networking
- ✓ Build event skills
- ✓ Learn event know-how
- ✓ Access corporate insights
- ✓ Boost teamwork skills
- ✓ Complete projects



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

More info: bit.ly/tmsummit24

Send texts and pictures at prm@district59.org

01/04

2025 Contest Calendar ★★★★★

A contest schedule covering all levels, from club to District, was approved by vote at the last DECM meeting. This initiative aims to coordinate events more effectively and ensure efficient planning, making it easier to participate in and organize the contests.

CGD Corner

CLUB Contests

District 59 Toastmasters!
Start today!
Deadline for completion:
End of January, 2025



- 1) International Speech:
2 Pathways levels completed
- 2) Table Topics: No level requirements
- 3) Judge above club level:
2 Pathways levels completed

For more information, contact your club VPE

District 59 Toastmasters: Challenges to Stimulate Club Growth! ★★★★★

District 59 Program Quality Director, Gilles Bacquet and Club Growth Director, Amol Palve, has launched an exciting new initiative to encourage the growth and dynamism of clubs in the district. Six challenges have been introduced, offering clubs the opportunity to strengthen their membership, improve the quality of their meetings, and develop the communication and leadership skills of their members. The goal is clear: to motivate each club to recruit new members, engage current members, and offer high-quality training. These challenges, spread throughout the year until June 30, 2025, are designed to create a motivating atmosphere within clubs while achieving measurable results. Clubs that successfully meet these challenges will receive financial support to enhance their activities and development.

With this initiative, District 59 aims not only to strengthen existing clubs, but also attract new audiences and expand the reach of the Toastmasters mission throughout the region.

AREA Contests

Deadline for completion:
End of February, 2025

DIVISION Contests

Deadline for completion:
End of March 25, 2025

Coreteam? Trio? Dc? Decm?

FUN WITH TOASTMASTERS ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS!



1-Training Boost ! Boost Your Leaders' Training! If only 3 officers were trained during the first session, don't worry! Train your entire team during the second session and earn €25 for your club. Investing in training is investing in your success!

2-Pathways Boost! Become a Pathways Excellence Club to achieve communication excellence! If 100% of your members who joined before July 1 complete at least one Pathways level, your club will receive €100. Let your talents shine while strengthening your community.

3-Club Boost! Revive or Boost Your Club: Is your club new or struggling? Implement effective marketing actions to energize it and receive €100. This is the perfect time to attract new members and grow your impact.

4-Explosive Boost! Explosive Growth +5 Net Members: Take your club to the next level by adding five net new members and receive €50! Up to 20 clubs can seize this opportunity to boost their dynamism.

5-Exceptional Boost! Exceptional Growth +10 Net Members: Go further and achieve a net growth of 10 members to earn €100. This reward is reserved for just five clubs, so don't miss this exclusive opportunity!

6-Full Retention Boost! 100% Member Retention: Ensure 100% net member retention and earn €50. This challenge is open to 65 clubs, so focus on loyalty and strengthen your team's cohesion.

Are you ready to take your club to the next level? Step up to the challenge and lead your club to success—get started today!

SUCCESS FOR DISTRICT 59: WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION AND NEW AMBITIONS



At the Anaheim convention, District 59 was brilliantly honored thanks to the hard work of its 2,900 dedicated members.

We received seven prestigious awards, including the title of Select Distinguished District as well as the President's 20+ Award - first in Region 10!

We were also recognized with the Club Growth Award - Select Distinguished (Gilles Bacquet), the District Program Quality Award - Smedley Distinguished (Ilona Ruitenber), and the Membership Strength Award - Smedley Distinguished (Arnout Nederpelt).

Additionally, Arnout Nederpelt won the President's 20+ Award - second in the World and the Club Strength Award - second in the world. These achievements reflect our collective commitment and excellence. We can only aim higher for the coming year!

Teen Voices in Thionville - YLP Program - 2023-2024

Do you fear speaking in front of your classmates when all eyes are set on you? You wish you could be more effective, confident and pass your final oral exams with flying colors?

The first Youth Leadership Program (YLP) in French in the Grand Est region brought together ten teenagers, including Lisa, Esma, Sirine, Lise, Fara, and Timeo, who decided to step up to develop their speaking skills. Eager to learn and practice public speaking with confidence each student committed and brought his or her own personality to the group. They collaborated constructively as well as individually supporting and encouraging one other. We were glad to see that such supportive atmosphere fostered a strong team spirit within the group.

We closed our first year in late June 2024, with the teenagers delivering a prepared speech to their families and guests. How proud they were to lead the entire session from beginning to end!

As the co-founders and coaches, Christina Le Duc and Vivien Bauchat, we express our deep pride in the young speakers and thank their parents for their support. Special thanks to Toastmaster Prince Motiani - Club Med, District 78 for his valuable and practical workshop, Toastmaster Evguenia Paris, Toastmaster Emmanuel Gestin, Immediate Past-President - Les Orateurs de Thionville



PQD Corner



New LMS is coming!



After a long wait, Toastmasters International's new Learning Management System (LMS) will launch in October. This transition marks a significant step in improving the member experience and facilitating access to training resources, to meet the expectations of many users.

Number of paths reduced from 11 to 6

- New mobile interface
- Completed levels and paths recorded automatically in Club Central
- Easier interactivity with social networks, e.g. LinkedIn
- New Explorations
- **Base Camp will be offline from October 9 to October 25, 2024 for platform testing prior to launching.**

To do before October 9, 2024:

1. Validate all completed projects, levels and paths to ensure they are recorded in the new LMS.
2. Alert the VPE of the club to which achieved levels and paths will be credited (dual members).
3. Download any projects and evaluation resources (French) needed during the outage period, using the Print My Project link on the Your Evaluation page, and the Evaluation Resource menu.
4. Download (save on your device) any personal data, comments, badges, stories, meeting roles, survey and questionnaire responses which you have recorded on Base Camp.
5. Select from the six remaining paths in the new LMS, when selecting a new path.

and Pierre Roby, President of Demosthène in Metz.

All the best for those of you who took the Grand Oral this year to further their studies. Keep having fun while learning and practicing! To quote Ralph Smedley, the founder of Toastmasters, "We learn best in moments of joy." The second year is now on its way starting October 6th with our new teenage group. Christina Le Duc & Vivien Bauchat, YLP co-founders and coaches of the Jeunes Orateurs de Thionville

Ilona Ruitenberg Interview!



How have your life experiences helped you in your roles?

At the age of 49, I was suddenly managing things on my own. I was at a crossroads in my life with a change in my family relationship and two boys to raise.

I was also at a crossroads with my job in a hospital as a committee chair, whereas I had previously been a lawyer, a prosecutor and a judge.

I learned one thing--if I didn't move, no one else would. I felt as if I was finally the one pulling the strings.

How do you manage having two boys at home (one in senior year and one working on a masters), grocery shopping, cleaning house and finding clients?

"I am very efficient in everything I do. I am an independent legal advisor. I don't have to think about it. I have a recruiter to help me find my next project. I advise municipalities and have a good network. I have never been without a job."

How do you relax?

I live in a natural setting. When I need to clear my head or some time off, I walk an hour with my dog (white Suisse Shepherd, dark brown eyes and a dark muzzle).

How did you get started in Toastmasters?

I joined Toastmasters at the beginning of 2019. Due to a conflict in my club and being a member of Toastmasters for half a year, I was asked to be President. I first was just a standard member, with an interest in contests and public speaking, not leadership. Club members began leaving and the Maastricht club was down to 11 members. Someone in the club helped me with leadership and getting things started and this learning experience continues to influence me today. I and my mentor sat down with each club member and asked what they wanted and where they wanted to be in five years. The club managed to survive and has been Presidents Distinguished three years in a row!

Ilona is in her fifth year as a District Leader from Area to Division Director to Club Growth, Program Quality and now District Director. What or who motivated you to follow this natural progression?

My club experience gave me a structure for the way I work today. After my Club President experience, I agreed to be Area Director. I was elected Division Director a year later and wanted to finish projects I knew would be good for the Area and Division clubs. When asked to join the District team, I chose to start with Club

Growth Director. New horizons began opening up. I was invited to go to Nashville, Tennessee for District Leader Training at the International Convention.

I couldn't believe this surreal opportunity was happening. I really enjoyed my Program Quality Role more than ever. I had gained experience with all the contests (Area, Division and District) early on in her Toastmasters journey. This year, I was well prepared for the District Director role.

Everything happened so fast and with the right timing. I wasn't always aware of what I was doing. And none of this wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been asked to become Club President!

What experience leaves a lasting impression on you, Ilona?

"Swimming on the rooftop of the Marriott in Dubai for District Leader Training. The warm, desert wind blowing in my face as I looked at the Burj Khalifa tower. I never thought that one small decision like joining Toastmasters or becoming Club President would bring me this far."



D59 Trio in Anaheim: Gilles Bacques, PQD, Ilona Ruitenberg, DD, Amol Palve, CGD



**Save the date!!
May 9-11, 2025
District 59 Spring Conference
Egmond aan Zee,
The Netherlands**



Trio Rozen en Honing

Trio Rozen & Honing on stage soon!

Do you recognize them? the Rozen & Honing singing trio, performing on Holland's Got Talent and in the Ouderen Songfestival, includes Andy Baker, DTM and Bill Monsour, DTM. Those guys just love being on stage, talking or singing! Watch them on HGT this Friday, October 11 at 8pm on RTL4. Well done, toasties!