

**DISTRICT 45**

**INSIDER**

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**DISTRICT 45**

Vermont | New Hampshire | Maine | New Brunswick  
Nova Scotia | Prince Edward Island | Newfoundland and Labrador

# **CELEBRATING DISTRICT 45**



[D45TOASTMASTERS.ORG](http://D45TOASTMASTERS.ORG)

# FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

**Sherry MacDonald,  
DTM**

**2025-2026  
District Director**



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**GOOD  
MEMORIES**

## To Our Members: A Letter of Gratitude and Excitement

As I reflect on my Toastmasters journey, I am reminded of how little I knew when I first joined in 2015. At the time, I was simply looking for an opportunity to improve my communication skills. What I did not realize was the incredible range of opportunities that awaited me.

As I progressed through Toastmasters, I discovered a passion for leadership and all that it has to offer. I found great satisfaction in mentoring and coaching others, while continually challenging myself to stretch beyond my own fears and develop new skills. Along the way, I learned lessons that extended far beyond the Toastmasters meeting. Perhaps one of the most valuable was developing greater patience and understanding resulting in the willingness to adjust expectations and meet people where they are.

This year brought its share of challenges as we navigated the realignment of districts and the many changes that accompanied it. While change can be difficult, it also presents opportunities for growth. Throughout this transition, I have been continually inspired by the dedication, resilience, and generosity of our members.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that await us as we join another group of equally wonderful Toastmasters. New perspectives, new friendships, and new experiences will allow us to continue learning, growing, and supporting one another on our leadership and communication journeys.

Thank you to every member, club officer, and leader who has contributed to making this year a success. Your commitment to personal growth and helping others achieve their goals is what makes Toastmasters such a remarkable organization.

I look forward to seeing all that we will accomplish together in the years ahead.

# Build New Clubs and Assist All Clubs in Achieving Excellence

## Our District Mission



**Madhu Kanji, DTM**  
**2025-2026**  
**Club Growth Director**

This is the first year that the Smedley Distinguished award was introduced by Toastmasters International. We in District 45 are pleased to recognize 2 Clubs that have achieved this award. These Clubs submitted their Club Success Plan, obtained 10 Distinguished Club Program goals and had a minimum of 25 members.

**Saint John TM Club** added 26 new members this year and **True Blue TM Club** added 33 new members this year

All our Clubs participated in the Distinguished Club Program and our recognition extends to each one of them. A sincere thank you to our Area and Division Directors who are the ears and eyes of the District and who have supported our Clubs.

**Building New Clubs** requires teamwork and time. We are pleased to welcome our latest Club to District 45.

### **Sunrise Toastmasters in Manchester, New Hampshire.**

Congratulations to this Club. We look forward also to our 5 additional chartering clubs achieving this status. The process requires commitment and tenacity, attributes which our chartering clubs are well endowed with. All the success to our chartering clubs.

We extend our sincere thank you to our Club Extension Chair, Toastmaster **M.E. Lawlor** and team. Toastmaster M.E.Lawlor has served in this position for two years with a sincere commitment to service and excellence.

The **Club Coach program** is an important aspect of all clubs achieving excellence. Our sincere thank you is extended to our **Club Coach Coordinator**, Toastmaster **Maria Winn DTM**. Toastmaster Maria Winn has served in this position for two years with a commitment to service and excellence. There are currently 12 Coaches serving our 9 Clubs. My sincere thanks is extended to all these Coaches for their service and dedication to the Clubs and we wish them all the success in achieving their goals.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the last Club Growth Director of District 45 in this 2025 – 2026 Toastmasters year, the last year as District 45. My thanks are extended to the District for giving me this opportunity to serve, and to our Senior Leadership Team.



# 2026-2027 DISTRICT 31 DISTRICT DIRECTOR-ELECT



## Christian Austin, PM5

2026-2027

### District Director-Elect

The 2026-2027 Toastmasters year is a historic milestone, as District 31 and District 45 unite, together as one. My own journey began in 2012 when, as an introverted engineer, I first walked into a Toastmasters meeting to confront my fear of public speaking head-on. Today, I am honored to be your District Director-Elect of the **new District 31!**

My vision for this year is to work with all members from both districts to bring best practices, and leaders together to form processes enabling our members to meet their goals in a unified District 31.

We can move towards this vision by focusing on these three areas:

1. **Club Quality:** Providing clubs with the resources needed to make meetings fun and valuable, ensuring members see the benefit of every role they take, move closer to their goals, and continue to come back.
2. **Educational Excellence:** Delivering a Pathways training curriculum and club support through a training team, and helping members connect transferable skills in Pathways projects to their personal and professional lives.
3. **Engagement and Communication:** Ensuring that our District activities are no longer the "best-kept secret". Our PRM and marketing teams will work together to raise awareness of everything our district offers, drawing in both current and future Toastmasters.

Transition and change are never easy, but we can work together in our clubs and district to make one district better than the sum of its parts. **I need your talents** to make this vision a reality and help us remain the **best district in the world!** I'm looking forward to working with all of you this year.

Contact: [pqd@district31.org](mailto:pqd@district31.org)

# Member Spotlight



## Mary Hunter, DTM

Bangor Pine Tree Toastmasters is proud to be home to a living legend. Our very own Mary Hunter is turning 103 this July!

Mary is such an inspiration that the District named the Mary Hunter Lifelong Learner Award in her honor.

If you want to understand her secret to longevity and happiness, you only need to look at her philosophy on life: **"I'm greedy for every opportunity to learn!"**

### Overcoming Obstacles, Seizing Opportunities

Growing up during segregation in Georgia, Mary faced countless closed doors and a severe lack of opportunity. But when she joined Toastmasters in 2002, she decided to grab every single opportunity the organization had to offer.

Over the past two decades, Mary has:

- Delivered scores of impactful speeches.
- Served the club diligently as Sergeant at Arms.
- Participated in numerous speech contests.
- Maintained near-perfect attendance, always stepping up to take on a meeting role.

### A Fearless Futurist

Mary never backs down from a challenge. In her late 90s, she mastered Zoom and Pathways. This past April, she boldly started a new education path: Engaging Humor. Up next? Her goals for this year include mastering email and navigating our club website.

At a recent meeting, Mary was asked during Table Topics: *"Knowing then what you know now, what would you change in your past?"*

Her unforgettable reply: ***"I'm not concerned with my past, I'm still focusing on my dreams."***

While most people stick to the familiar, Mary forges ahead with relentless curiosity. She is the ultimate personification of lifelong learning.

**Happy 103rd Birthday, Mary—thank you for inspiring us to keep dreaming big!**

## By The Numbers

Educational Achievements Completed Between July 1, 2025 and June 22, 2026

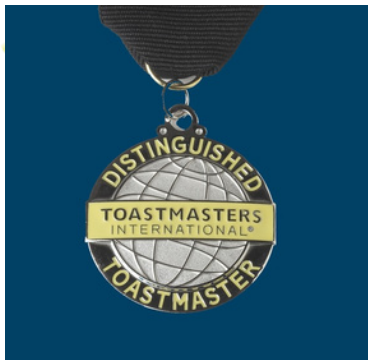


Path	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Dynamic Leadership	22	19	8	9	11
Effective Coaching	2	0	6	3	2
Engaging Humor	21	13	12	10	5
Innovative Planning	7	4	4	5	5
Leadership Development	1	2	4	3	3
Motivational Strategies	15	8	7	4	5
Persuasive Influence	10	6	4	3	2
Presentation Mastery	59	39	24	27	16
Strategic Relationships	4	5	5	4	5
Team Collaboration	1	3	3	1	2
Visionary Communication	13	6	7	8	8

2 Pathways Mentorship Levels Completed

6 Distinguished Toastmasters

Member	Club Name
Dawna-Jean Turchon	Kennebec Valley Toastmasters
David Stonehouse	Saint John Club
Lesley Carter	Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters Club
Jennifer Theriault	Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters Club
James M. Lawlor	Provincially Speaking Toastmasters
Deborah I. Mitton	Atlantic Online Evaluators



**61**

Toastmasters Achieved a Triple Crown Award  
(Completed 3 levels during the year)

## By The Numbers

# Club Achievements

Distinguished
Nashua-Hudson Club
Live, Speak Or Die Toastmasters
Champ Masters
Greater Portland Toastmasters Club
Portsmouth Toastmasters
Bangor Pine Tree Toastmasters Club
The Maine Thing Advanced Toastmasters Club
Le Club Toastmasters Acadien
Sussex Toastmasters Club
Women Changemakers
Charlottetown Toastmasters Breakfast Club
Select Distinguished
Concord Toastmasters Club
Riverview Canusa Toastmasters Club
Fredericton Toastmasters Club
Memorial Toastmasters Club
Dartmouth Toastmasters Club
President's Distinguished
Toast Of The Valley Club
Kennebec Valley Toastmasters
Provincially Speaking Toastmasters
Smedley Distinguished
True Blue Toastmasters
Saint John Club

Area 04 Distinguished

Area 02 Distinguished

Area 17 Distinguished

Area 14 Select Distinguished

Division C Distinguished

Welcome New Club: Sunrise Toastmasters NH

68 of 72 Clubs Submitted their Club Success Plan

# District 45 Awards

Over the years District 45 has recognized significant contributions from members and clubs with annual awards. Below is the list of awards both current and several discontinued (historical). Some of these awards celebrate cumulative contributions over a number of years, while others focus on achievement within a single year. The majority are individual accolades, though some historical awards were presented to clubs.



## Dave Rosvall Award

This award presented to a District 45 Toastmaster who has demonstrated long-term and meritorious service to the District above the club level.

### Winner for 2025-2026: M.E. Lawlor

#### Past Winners:

2024-2025 Marion Taylor	2008-2009 Wanda Baker
2023-2024 Joe Grondin	2007-2008 Margaret Ferguson
2022-2023 Gary Belding	2006-2007 Shirley Kelly
2021-2022 Ray Savoie	2005-2006 Roger Davies
2020-2021 Nita Patel	2004-2005 Jerry Clark
2019-2020 Heather Drope Marchione	2003-2004 Norma Clark
2018-2019 Kathryn Hanson	2002-2003 Lou Haskell
2017-2018 Michael Thompson	2001-2002 Bill Daoust
2016-2017 Donna Tasker	2000-2001 Marilyn Ritza
2015-2016 Wendy Harding	1999-2000 Don Winn
2014-2015 Dan Bell	1998-1999 Harry McClenaghan
2013-2014 Candice Buell	1997-1998 Heather Perkins
2012-2013 Dona Bate	1996-1997 Chummie MacDonald
2011-2012 Dave Fraser	1995-1996 Phil Works
2010-2011 Carl Duivenvoorden	1994-1995 Jean DeVigne
2009-2010 Jim Kokocki	1993-1994 Britt Deedo



## Shirley Kelly Award

This award is presented to a Distinguished Toastmaster who exemplifies the mission and values of a Toastmaster and empowers fellow Toastmasters to be successful by sharing the spotlight.

### Winner for 2025-2026: Angela Chute

#### Past Winners:

2024-2025 Reese Eskridge	2018-2019 Marion Taylor
2023-2024 Olivette Aviso	2017-2018 Nita Patel
2022-2023 Jim Kokocki	2016-2017 Carl Duivenvoorden
2021-2022 D J Turchon	2015-2016 Heather Perkins
2020-2021 M.E. Lawlor	2014-2015 Not awarded
2019-2020 Sharon Joseph	2013-2014 Jeanne Mance Cormier

# District 45 Awards cont'd



## Darlene Dunn Award

This award recognizes the late Darlene Dunn and is awarded to a member who has exhibited the heart and soul of what Toastmasters mentorship: “Encouraging success of others before self”.

### Winner for 2025-2026: Betsy Black

Past Winners:

2024-2025 Alexa Vodicka

2023-2024 Not Awarded

2022-2023 Not Awarded

2021-2022 Paul Coddington

2020-2021 Paula Tozer



## Mary E. Hunter Lifelong Learner Award

Named after longtime Toastmaster Mary Hunter, this award honors a retired member who shows a strong commitment to lifelong learning. The recipient is actively involved in the Toastmasters Educational Program, stays engaged in their community, and volunteers their time generously—even beyond Toastmasters.

### Winner for 2025-2026: James ‘Chummie’ MacDonald

Past Winners:

2024-2025 Mintrude Charles-Young

2023-2024 Carol Niles

2022-2023 Mary E Hunter



## Toastmaster of the Year

The Toastmaster of the Year award is given to a member who best exemplifies Toastmasters International values in supporting the District and club missions.

### Winner for 2025-2026: Lorelei Grecian

Past Winners:

2024-2025 Antoine Legresley

2023-2024 Cecilia Dahl

2022-2023 Ron Cartright

2021-2022 Lesley Carter

# District 45 Awards cont'd



## Area Director of the Year

The Area Director of the Year is based on the Area performance and the individuals' contributions to that achievement. The achievements are measured across membership building and retention, club extensions, distinguished club program, education and training, leadership commitment and support, and public relations.

### Winner for 2025-2026: Joe Grondin



#### Past Winners:

2024-2025 Tamara Elwood  
2023-2024 Aaleyah S. Evans  
2022-2023 Joe Reid  
2021-2022 Michael Lawlor  
2020-2021 Kelley Demers  
2019-2020 Suzanne Weiss  
2018-2019 Charlene Fox  
2017-2018 Karen MacKey  
2016-2017 Vincent Auffrey  
2015-2016 Yvonne Tabb  
2014-2015 Cheryl Grant  
2013-2014 Sean Hurley  
2012-2013 Norma Pastieri  
2011-2012 Wayne Turner  
2010-2011 Joe Kasper  
2009-2010 Sharon Jacques  
2008-2009 Shawn Jones  
2007-2008 Louise Bernier

2006-2007 Sue Francesco  
2005-2006 Shane Walsh  
2004-2005 Wendy Harding  
2003-2004 Jacqueline Brill/Mel Gosse  
2002-2003 Unknown  
2001-2002 Ed Miner  
2000-2001 Jim Bendell  
1999-2000 Carl Duivenvoorden  
1998-1999 Gerry Higgins/Ruth Brown  
1997-1998 Bill Tighe  
1996-1997 Fran Crocheron  
1995-1996 Harry McClenaghan  
1994-1995 Louise Fyffe  
1993-1994 Linda Boynton  
1992-1993 Perry Munroe  
1991-1992 Jim Heeren  
1990-1991 Dale Kelly  
1989-1990 Robert Desmaris

# District 45 Awards cont'd



## Division Director of the Year

The Division Director of the Year is based on the Division's performance and the individual's contributions to that achievement. The achievements are measured across membership building and retention, club extensions, distinguished club program, education and training, leadership commitment and support, and public relations.

**Winner for 2025-2026: Lawrence Kelly**



### Past Winners:

2024-2025 Veerendra Nagalla  
2023-2024 Elise Thorsen  
2022-2023 Marcia Rogowsky  
2021-2022 Kelley Demers  
2020-2021 Cindy Lee  
2019-2020 Angela Chute  
2018-2019 Audrey DeCosta  
2017-2018 Olivette Aviso  
2016-2017 Linda Rummenie  
2015-2016 Jeff Hebert  
2014-2015 Tom Dowd

2013-2014 Mark Dykeman  
2012-2013 Ray Savoie  
2011-2012 Sandra Hachey  
2010-2011 Kathy Anderson  
2009-2010 Nita Patel  
2008-2009 Louise Bernier  
2007-2008 Brenda Saunders/Todd  
2006-2007 Marcia Sprague  
2005-2006 Dave Fraser  
2004-2005 Kevin Clements



## Recognition for Supporting District 45

Awarded to an individual who supported District 45 activities over multiple years.

**Winner for 2025-2026: Karl Stewart**



# District 45 Awards cont'd



## Terry Chinnery Award (Historic)

This award, in memory of Past District Governor Terry Chinnery (1988 - 1989) is presented at the annual conference to the club with the greatest percentage increase in members from the previous April.

### Winners:

2022-2023 Fidelity Orators #729425	2014-2015 North County #1431722
22021-2022 Toast of the Valley #9719	2013-2014 Granite Place #676508
2020-2021 Confederation #4085	2012-2013 Speak-easy #8183
2019-2020 Confederation #4085	2011-2012 Unknown
2018-2019 J-Talkers #1067481	2010-2011 Unknown
2017-2018 River Talkers #1121700 & Toast of the Valley #9719	2009-2010 Yarmouth #3119
2016-2017 North Country #1431722	2008-2009 True Blue #6871
2015-2016 Speak Easies #1770	2007-2008 Merrimasters #7926

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## Ted Nichols Award (Historic)

This award is presented at the annual conference to the club with the greatest membership retention.

### Winners:

2022 - 2023 Sackville Club #4588	2016 - 2017 Dartmouth Tic Talkers #9307
2021 - 2022 Speak or Die Toastmasters #4732112	2015 - 2016 Spirited Speakers
2020 - 2021 Bedford Basin Toastmasters #3826192	2014 - 2015 River Valley #4373706
2019 - 2020 Wolfville #2419498	2013 - 2014 Mid Day Toastmasters #3277975
2018 - 2019 Kennebec Valley #1468	2012 - 2013 Confederation #4805
2017 - 2018 Penmen Toastmasters #5608897	2011 - 2012 Unknown
	2010 - 2011 Ecotoasters #8518
	2009 - 2010 Toast of the Coast #4592

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## Communication and Leadership Award (Historic)

### Winners:

2024-2025 Charles Burrell, The Humanity Project  
2023-2024 Good Will-Hinckley  
2022-2023 Dr. Heather Morrison



# District 45 Awards cont'd

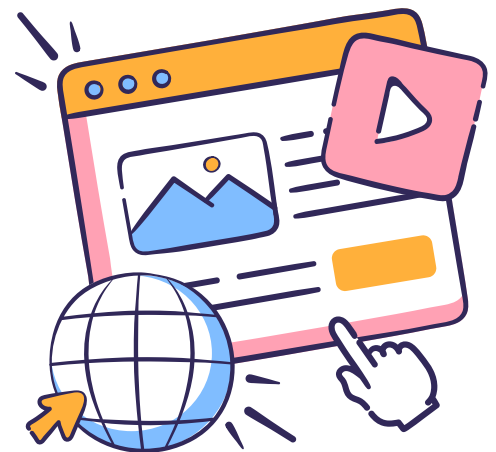


## Multimedia Omnipresence Award (Historic)

This award is presented at the annual conference to the club judged to use all aspects of public relations to the best advantage of their club. Included could be: newspaper, newsletters, website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. This award was first presented in 2020. Prior to that, there were separate awards for Best Newsletter and Best Website. The years prior to 2019 – 2020 will show, in most cases, two club names. The first is the winner of the Best Newsletter and the second is the winner of the Best Website award.

### Winners:

2024 - 2025 Provincially Speaking Toastmasters #4577257  
2023 - 2024 Speech Afire Advanced Toastmasters #6787365  
2022 - 2023 Portsmouth Toastmasters #1094  
2021 - 2022 Cape Breton #3285  
2020 - 2021 Mt. Washington Valley #3596556  
2019 - 2020 Brattlemasters #1051632  
2018 - 2019 Dirigo #1117322/BrattleMasters #1051632  
2017 - 2018 Kennebec Valley #1468/The Very Best #688  
2016 - 2017 Kennebec Valley #1468/Wolfville Toastmasters #2419498  
2015 - 2016 Sears-Halifax #1555/TM of Manchester #4227  
2014 - 2015 Unknown/Unknown  
2013 - 2014 Rutland #6205/Sears Halifax #1555  
2012 - 2013 Successfully Speaking Women #1327791/Kennebecasis #4402  
2011 - 2012 Sears Halifax #1555/Advanced Dawn Breakers #4502  
2010 - 2011 Amoskeag Better Communicators #7347/Moultonboro #1421383  
2009 - 2010 Unknown/Kennebecasis #4402  
2008 - 2009 Dartmouth #3119/Schooner #3978  
2007 - 2008 Unknown/Kennebecasis #4402  
2006 - 2007 Sears Halifax #1555/Kennebecasis #4402  
2005 - 2006 Speakeasies #1770/Schooner #3978  
2004 - 2005 Coastmasters #658057



# In Memoriam

As we look back on a remarkable Toastmasters year filled with growth, achievements, and milestones, we also pause to look inward. A community is defined not just by where it is going, but by the incredible individuals who helped build its foundation.

In this section, we honor the memory of the cherished Toastmasters of District 45 who left us. While their voices may now be silent, the echoes of their stories, their mentorship, and their dedication continue to resonate in our clubs and hearts. They didn't just give speeches; they gave us their time, their wisdom, and their unwavering encouragement.

We invite you to join us in celebrating their lasting contributions to our District. They will always be a part of our story.

Name	Member of...
Terry Chinnery, DTM, PDG	Saint John Toastmasters
Horace Crozier, DTM	Multiple clubs within District 45 and 61
Roger Davies, DTM	
Ingrid Dinter,	Concord Toastmasters
Darlene Dunn, DTM	Premiere Toastmasters Club
Clifford Fournier, DTM, PDG	Fredericton Toastmasters
Simon Gillis, DTM	Dartmouth Toastmasters
Carol Goward, ATM-S	Concord Toastmasters
Susan Gunther,	Concord Toastmasters
Wendy Harding, DTM, PID	Multiple clubs within District 45
Shirley Kelly, DTM, PDG	Riverview Canusa
Caryl Lajoie, ATM-G	Concord Toastmasters
Kitty Lau, DTM	Memorial Toastmasters Club
Norma Pasatieri, DTM	Multiple Clubs within District 45
Carin Plante,	Concord Toastmasters
Glenn Tapley, DTM	Concord Toastmasters

# Memories of District 45



Nova Scotia 2005 Summer TLI - then called Club Officer Training. Carl Duivenvoorden (IPDG), Dan Bell (LG of Education), Heather Perkins, Jane Rafuse, Elaine Eaton, Annapolis Valley TMs. In the background was our Wall of Fame Banner, with all the member achievements of the 2004-2005 year.



District 45 team on the stage at the International Convention in Toronto in August 2005 receiving our Distinguished District award from International President Jon Greiner; we're joined by every member of D45 in attendance, and we're holding our 2004-05 Wall of Fame banner.



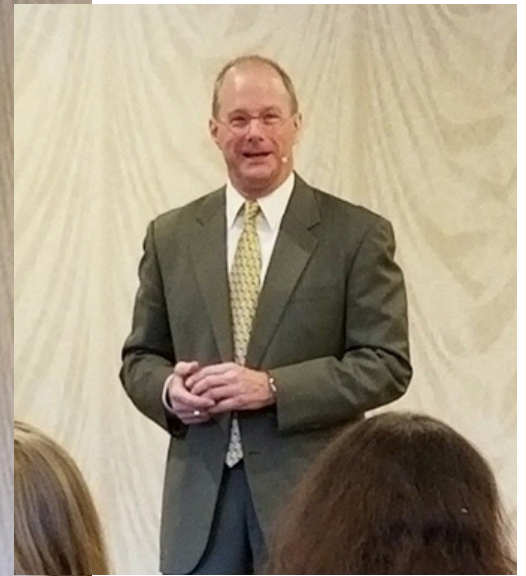
**Left:** Gerry Higgins and Carl Duivenvoorden with our guest speaker, solo around the world sailor Derek Hatfield

**Below:** Gerry Higgins and Carl with our Communication and Leadership Award winner Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Trenholme Counsell



# Memories of District 45

From the Fall Conference in Fairlee, Vermont. The Keynote Speaker was Lance Miller, the 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking. The conference theme was “Your Ticket to Excellence:



# Memories of District 45



Anne Bissonnette shared: Only at a district conference, in another country, did I meet someone who had my name. At the District 45 conference in Vermont I met another Anne Bissonnette. She too spelled her first name with an E and had 2 s's, 2 n's, and 2 t's in her last name. She too is a Toastmaster and is active in service. It was a marvelous encounter with a kindred spirit of my name.

The organizing team of the 2005 Spring Conference in Fredericton, NB.



# Memories of District 45



**Above:** PEI Toastmasters - District 45 Conference 2018

**Above Right:** 2023 PEI Conference Co Chairs and District Director before conference photo

**Right:** Danilo, Crystal, Anne, Lorelei at Conference in Moncton 2025

**Below:** PEI Member Social July 2018

**Below Right:** Sharon Allen and Horace Crozier



# Memories of District 45



**Above:** Sheryl Poirier, Division C Director Dave Stonehouse and Sue Flower - Conference 2024

**Above Right:** Shirley Li Breakfast Club 2021

**Below:** Riverview Canusa Members at Area 2 contests March 2026 - Crystal, Sasanka, Danilo, Anne and Zainatu



# Memories of District 45



**Above:** Melissa Miller  
Moncton Conference 2025

**Above Right:** Jim Kokocki -  
Shirley Kelley Award 2023

**Right:** 2024 Freeport, Maine  
- Paul Coddington, Tom  
Goodwin, Anne, Jennifer,  
Crystal

**Below:** District 45  
Conference 2019 - PEI  
contingent with Senior  
Leadership - (Maine)



# Memories of District 45



October 2017  
Charlottetown  
Breakfast Club Charter  
Ceremony

November 2017 District  
45 Fall Conference



June 2020  
Charlottetown  
Breakfast Club Member  
Achievement  
Celebration

# Memories of District 45



Darlene Smith, Anne Doucette and Heather Fairchild at PEI Conference 2023



Presentation of the Division Director and Area Director of the Year Awards 2023: Marcia Rogowsky (Division Director), Joe Reid (Area Director)



DEC Training 2023-2024 in Maine

# District 45's Final Conference



## 2026 Humorous Speech Contest Winners & Contest Chair

Shamarita Guha Thakurta (3rd)  
Tammy Ward (2nd)  
JohnMichael DeBartolo (1st)  
Elise Thorsen (Contest Chair)



## 2026 International Speech Contest Winners & Contest Chair

John Michael DeBartolo (3rd)  
Josephine Puthota (2nd)  
Swarna Naojee (1st)  
Lorna Walters (Contest Chair)



## 2026 Table Topics Contest Winners & Contest Chair

Cameron Gannon (2nd)  
Tammy Ward (1st)  
Manuela Belibi (3rd)  
Crystal Cobb (Contest Chair)

# District 45's Final Conference



# District 45's Final Conference



## Remembering District 45

- Top Left: Tom Macisso, DTM
- Top Middle: Donna Tutty, DTM
- Top Right: Tom Goodwin, DTM, PDD
- Middle Left: Donna Tasker, DTM
- Middle: Carl Duivenvoorden, DTM, PDG

## Panelists on Personal Growth within Toastmasters

- Dawn Frail, DTM, PID
- Pat Johnson, DTM, PRA, PIP

# District 45's Final Conference



## **Conference Keynote & Plenary Speakers\*:**

**Top:** Jean Gamester, Second Vice President, Toastmasters International Board 2025-2026 - All Aboard for our Toastmasters Adventure!

**Middle:** Joe Grondin, DTM, AS & Angela Chute, DTM, PDD - Sink or Swim

**Right:** Sharon Joseph, DTM, PDD - Face the Fire Within

# Incoming District 31 Director at Conference



# One Final Standing Ovation: Embracing Our Next Chapter!

Transitioning into Districts 31 and 53 isn't about saying goodbye; it's about growing our community. We are broadening our horizons, welcoming new mentors, and carrying the vibrant spirit of District 45 forward. Let's embrace this fresh beginning with open hearts, joy, and enthusiasm. Your Toastmasters journey continues, the skills you've built are permanent, and exciting new friendships are ready to be made!

**Effective July 1, 2026 District 45 officially merges into Districts 31 & 53**

## District 31

Website: <https://district31.org/>

District Director: Christian Austin

## District 53

Website: <https://d53tm.org/>

District Director: Sharon Mercado, DTM, PDD

*thank you*

**To the members:** Thank you for every speech, evaluation, and moment of encouragement.

**To our leaders:** Thank you for your tireless dedication to keeping our District thriving.

**The Wish:** I wish every single one of you continued success, brilliant speeches, and the courage to keep stepping up to the podium.

**"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." — Socrates**

Thank you for the memories, District 45.  
Let's make Districts 31 & 53 unforgettable!