

CLUB #8170 - AREA 23 - DIVISION D - DISTRICT 42

## **NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2023** 

#### **CLUB MEETINGS**

Tuesdays, 7.15PM - 9PM, MDT

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

In-Person: May 16th, May 30th On-Line: May 23rd

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Spring meetings
- New Member Inductions
- Contest Season
- Club Anniversary Celebration
- Members' Achievements

#### **CLUB MISSION**

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

#### www.calgarypacesetters.com



















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The 2022-2023 Toastmasters year has been extremely successful for the Calgary PaceSetters Toastmasters Club. We welcomed 17 new members to the club at different points throughout the year. Those who joined prior to May 2nd, 2023, were officially inducted into the club at our 32nd Anniversary Party. Our current President, Jovana Ivkovic, and our current VP of Membership, Tzonka Bouklieva, led the new members in attendance through the ceremony. New members made their Toastmasters promise while veteran club members pledged their ongoing support.











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### **SPRING CONTEST SEASON**

The Calgary Pace Setters were part of a very successful spring contest season. Twila Tayfel (Evaluation), Grace Nguyen(International Speech) and Rocio Mijangos (International Speech) represented the club at Area Level. Twila and Grace moved on to the Division Level.

Grace tells of her contest experience: After nearly 3 years of joining the Pace Setters club, I decided to enter the International speech contest on Feb 28th, 2023 at the Club level. I passed this round and joined the Area Contest on Mar 18th. I was fortunate to continue the journey to the Division contest on April 1st, 2023.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience. I had tremendous support from my club and from members outside of the club. Experienced team members reached out to me to offer help with my speech. What amazed me was the Circle of Gold, from the one that our club organized to the one that the Division organized. It was an eye-opener for me. Everyone was so supportive, so professional and so kind. Attending the contests made me laugh, made me cry (from having to rehearse so many times and from hearing so many touching and inspiring speeches), made me think and most importantly made me believe that there are so many talented and kind people out there that are willing to share their stories, their experiences and their knowledge to uplift each other, to make each other's life fuller in all possible ways. What a wonderful community!

Please do not hesitate to join this type of contest. Believe me, you'll walk out of the contest feeling amazed by what you experienced. It was a real treat.

Thank you,

Grace



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### SPRING CONTEST SEASON

Alisen Dopf was the 2022-2023 District Contest Chair. Here are her thoughts on taking on this important role.

Woot! Woot! Congratulations to all the Toastmasters who challenged themselves at the Club, Area, Division and District levels to be their very best. It's not easy to dive deep and gather your courage to compete. The act of saying yes, and showing up, made you a winner.

As the District 42 Contest Chair, I had the privilege of escorting these brave souls through the final, and perhaps the most stressful part, of their contest journey. It was my goal all year to provide a safe, and comfortable arena for our contestants. I wanted the contestants to know that all the little details were taken care of, so they could focus 100% on their performance.

Why Me?

When D42 Program Quality Director Eugene Sicat called me unexpectedly last August to take on this role, my first question was "How'd you get my number?" I'm not one to go out for District roles, so I was very surprised. Toastmasters has given me so much, so when I'm asked to turn around and lend a hand, I said yes immediately.



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Not having a lot of Contest experience, I immediately turned to my mentor, Past District Director Christina Kruis for guidance. She not only joined the Contest Team immediately but then gathered the best Technical Team in the District. She also continued to mentor me by teasing out the nuances of managing a high-level contest. I am forever grateful to you Christina, and you are a major reason why I said yes. If Toastmasters is where leaders are made, it's in large part because YOU find future leaders and mentor them to success.

The Technical Team was anchored by my old friend Irma Goosen and my new friend Cheryl Dust. Irma and I understand each other intuitively, so we don't have to talk much to get the job done. I miss you already! Cheryl is the Rock Star I didn't know was missing in my life. A tech whiz, when Cheryl talks, I listen. The entire Tech team drilled down to the smallest detail to ensure nothing was overlooked. When you're streaming a Contest live on YouTube or for a District Conference, the technical side must be perfect. Cheryl and Irma have the knowledge and dedication to deliver. Without the Tech Team, there'd be no contest.

I was also supported by the creative team of Tanice McMinnis and Vesna Ivkovic. Together with Christina, Tanice developed our theme of "Dive Deep to Discover Your Potential" as well as stunning visuals. She also created the slide deck, and her work as Slidemaster was flawless.



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Both the Contests were promoted by my fellow Calgary Pace Setter Vesna. Past D42 PR Manager and current Dispatch Editor, Vesna had the website updated with contestants and winners, sometimes before I even knew who was competing. In the fall, she promoted the Humorous and Table Topics contests online and on social media. No job was too small, and her willingness to dive in and help was a blessing.

Our Chief Judge was Joyce Allen. Joyce's dedication to excellence was felt by all, especially as she had to make last-minute adjustments to the judges when the contestants changed. It was a joy getting to know you, Joyce. To all the judges that gave their time and expertise – thank you! You know who you are, and you are appreciated.

Over the entire contest year, the team was enhanced by several people in various support roles. I have to commend everyone that came on board. It's not easy joining a team that's going full steam ahead, but everyone jumped in and gave their very best performance.

I am so incredibly proud of the work the Contest Team did this year. Four successful contests went off without a hitch due to the time and dedication of these amazing volunteers. It was my privilege to be a part of this team and to help our fellow Toastmasters achieve their contest dreams. As for Eugene, I wish you the best of luck as our new District Director, and please, go ahead and lose my number @ Respectfully submitted,

### **Alisen Dopf**

2022-2023 D42 Contest Chair



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### **Club Anniversary 1991-2023**

In 1991, veteran Toastmaster, Irene Murray chartered the Calgary Pace Setters Toastmasters Club. In 2023, the Calgary Pace Setters turns 32 years old. Irene's legacy lives on the in the longevity of the Calgary Pace Setters and the willingness of club members to embrace the core values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence. You can read more about Irene Murray on our website. <a href="https://calgarypacesetters.com/index.php/club-history/">https://calgarypacesetters.com/index.php/club-history/</a>

On May 2nd, 2023, we held a party to celebrate the Club's Anniversary. Jacquie Schnider shared her memories of Irene Murray while Alex Campbell reminisced about his time as a PaceSetter when Irene was still a member.



Jacquie Schnider



Alex Campbell



The 2022-2023 Calgary
PaceSetters



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At Calgary Pace Setters, we celebrate the achievements of our members who keep working on their communication and leadership skills, advancing in their Toastmasters journeys.













