

District 77 Best Practices Guide

June 2026 Edition: R.I.S.E. in Action — Finishing Strong Through Evaluation, Growth, and Encouragement

Recruit • Inspire • Speak • Encourage

INTRODUCTION

June’s nominations closed the Toastmasters year with three strong examples of clubs living the R.I.S.E. framework in different ways: one club strengthened District-level speakers through a unique evaluation format, one demonstrated major recruitment growth and contest excellence, and one showcased encouragement, member engagement, and quality-meeting practices. Together, these submissions remind us that club excellence is built through consistent support, measurable action, and a willingness to help members stretch beyond their comfort zones.

June 2026 submissions reviewed:

- Round Table Advance #00003934 — Area 23, Division B
- Vocalizers #5175 — Area 32, Division B
- V.A. Voices #651363 — Area 22, Division B

R — RECRUIT

Growth Happens When Clubs Create a Welcoming Culture Worth Joining

Best Practice 1: Convert Club Energy into Membership Growth

Observed at: Vocalizers Toastmasters

What Worked

- Vocalizers welcomed **14 new members**, a major growth achievement that reflects outreach, follow-up, and a strong club experience.
- The submission connected new-member growth to fresh energy, enthusiasm, and the expansion of the Toastmasters mission in the community.

Try This

- Track your monthly growth funnel: **Guests → Follow-up → Applications → New Members.**

- Ask every new member: “What made you decide to join?” Then use those answers in future recruitment messaging.
- Pair each new member with a mentor or role buddy within the first two meetings.

District Insight: Strong recruitment is not only about attracting people—it is about creating a club experience that makes them want to stay.

Best Practice 2: Make Every Member Part of the Recruitment Effort

Observed at: V.A. Voices

What Worked

- Members were encouraged to invite guests and actively participate in club growth.
- New members became engaged quickly through meeting roles and Ice Breaker speeches, reinforcing confidence in the Toastmasters program.

Try This

- Create a “Bring One Guest” challenge for the final quarter or start of the new Toastmasters year.
- Give members simple language they can use when inviting friends or colleagues.
- Celebrate members who invite guests—not only those whose guests join.

District Insight: A recruiting culture is strongest when it belongs to the whole club, not only the VP Membership.

I — INSPIRE

Inspiration Grows When Members See Progress, Purpose, and Possibility

Best Practice 3: Use Quality Meetings to Inspire Continued Engagement

Observed at: V.A. Voices

What Worked

- V.A. Voices reported a **95% average meeting score**, reflecting consistency, preparation, and a strong member experience.
- Members were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, serve in roles, complete Ice Breakers, and pursue educational goals.

Try This

- Use a short meeting-quality survey after meetings or monthly.
- Track trends: what members enjoy, what guests notice, and what should improve.
- Share results with the executive committee and turn feedback into action.

District Insight: High-quality meetings inspire members to return, participate, and keep growing.

Best Practice 4: Celebrate the Year While Building Next Year’s Momentum

Observed at: V.A. Voices

What Worked

- The club celebrated major achievements: **all 10 DCP goals**, Smedley Distinguished recognition, Triple Crown progress, strong conference representation, and repeated COTM recognition.
- Officer elections were completed, helping ensure a smooth leadership transition.

Try This

- Hold a “Year in Review” recognition moment before officer transition.
- Celebrate members, officers, contest participants, mentors, and behind-the-scenes contributors.
- Connect the celebration to next year’s goals: “Here is what we built. Here is where we go next.”

District Insight: Recognition is not just a closing activity—it is fuel for the next Toastmasters year.

S — SPEAK

Strong Speakers Grow Through Feedback, Repetition, and Multiple Perspectives

Best Practice 5: Use Round-Table Evaluations to Strengthen Contest Speeches

Observed at: Round Table Advance

What Worked

- Round Table Advance provided a dedicated practice space for District 77 speech contestants.
- Their “Round Table” evaluation style gave each contestant multiple perspectives to help refine and strengthen speeches before the District Spring Conference.

Try This

- Host a contest-prep meeting before Area, Division, or District contests.
- Invite 3–5 experienced evaluators to give short, focused feedback.
- Ask speakers to identify one goal before presenting: content, delivery, timing, humor, emotional impact, or stage presence.

District Insight: Multiple perspectives can help speakers move from good to memorable.

Best Practice 6: Build Contest Excellence Through Club Support

Observed at: Vocalizers Toastmasters

What Worked

- Vocalizers supported **two contestants** who advanced through every level of competition and represented the club at the District level.
- The submission credited mentorship, encouragement, training, and perseverance as part of the contestants’ success.

Try This

- Create a contest-support team: mentor, evaluator, timer, and practice audience.
- Schedule at least two practice rounds before each contest level.
- Celebrate contestants publicly at club meetings, whether they place or not.

District Insight: Contest success is rarely individual—it reflects a club culture that prepares, supports, and believes in its speakers.

E — ENCOURAGE

Encouragement Is Creating the Conditions for Members to Grow

Best Practice 7: Encourage Every Member to Participate, Speak, and Lead

Observed at: V.A. Voices

What Worked

- The club reported that members served in meeting roles, completed Ice Breaker speeches, and pursued educational goals.
- Officer elections were completed, and the club prepared for a smooth transition into the new Toastmasters year.

Try This

- Maintain a visible role schedule so every member has opportunities to participate.
- Encourage new members to complete an Ice Breaker within their first 30–45 days.
- Invite members personally to consider officer roles or committee leadership.

District Insight: Encouragement becomes powerful when it turns into a specific invitation: “We believe you are ready for this next step.”

Best Practice 8: Use Moments of Truth as a Club-Quality Reset

Observed at: V.A. Voices

What Worked

- The club plans to launch a **Moments of Truth Educational Series** to further strengthen club quality and member engagement.
- This is a strong example of using Toastmasters tools proactively, not only when problems arise.

Try This

- Run Moments of Truth as a series instead of one long session.
- Focus one meeting on each key area: first impressions, membership orientation, fellowship, education, meeting quality, and recognition.
- Capture one improvement action from each session and assign an owner.

District Insight: Healthy clubs do not wait for decline—they inspect, improve, and renew.

BONUS IDEAS

Use these ideas to strengthen future COTM submissions and club impact:

- Add supporting materials: photos, flyers, testimonials, social media screenshots, or meeting agendas.
- Include numbers whenever possible: guests, joins, speech counts, evaluation counts, Pathways completions, participation rate, meeting quality score.
- Capture one member quote each month. A simple testimonial can turn a good nomination into a compelling story.
- Document district or community impact: contest support, youth programs, speaking workshops, corporate/campus outreach, or community presentations.

DCP-ALIGNED TAKEAWAYS FOR ALL CLUBS

Club Focus	What “Good” Looks Like
Membership Growth	New members are welcomed, onboarded, and supported quickly
Speaking Excellence	Members receive practice, feedback, and contest support
Club Quality	Meeting scores, member engagement, and Moments of Truth guide improvement
Leadership Continuity	Officer elections and transitions are planned and encouraging
Member Development	Ice Breakers, Pathways progress, and Triple Crown goals are celebrated

FINAL THOUGHT

June's nominations show that District 77 clubs are finishing the Toastmasters year with purpose. Whether a club is growing by 14 new members, helping District contestants refine their speeches, or building a culture of encouragement through high-quality meetings and leadership transition, each example offers a practice worth sharing.

As we close the R.I.S.E. year, the lesson is clear: **club excellence grows when we recruit intentionally, inspire consistently, speak boldly, and encourage every member to take the next step.**

👉 **COTM Hall of Fame & Best Practices Page:**

<https://toastmasters77.org/cotm-hall-of-fame-and-best-practices/>