

AUGUST 2026 | ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN JULY 2026

Best Practices Summary

Repeatable practices shared by District 77 Club of the Month participants

RECRUIT • INSPIRE • SPEAK • ENCOURAGE • MAKE AN IMPACT

Purpose: Share what participating clubs tried, what they reported, and how other District 77 clubs can adapt the ideas. This is a learning resource - not a scorecard - and it contains no ranking or winner designation.

Participating clubs

Club and contributor	District location	Club-reported July highlights
Blue Nile Toastmasters, Memphis #03323744 <i>Submitted by Antoinette Gilcrest-Brittenum, President</i>	Area 21 <i>Division M</i>	1 new member; 3 education levels completed; 6 club officers trained; an in-house Moments of Truth discussion.
V. A. Voices Toastmasters Club #651363 <i>Submitted by DTM Hattie Smith, Secretary</i>	Area 11 <i>Division L</i>	Four dated Moments of Truth sessions; an eight-week role schedule; early new-member role integration; 3 social media images.
Montgomery Toastmasters #1334 <i>Submitted by Todd Childers</i>	Area 33 <i>Division N</i>	1 new member; 2 new-member Ice Breakers; a guest progressed from observer to Table Topics and Ah-Counter; a club-wide World Cup challenge.

A shared learning thread

All three participants created deliberate pathways for involvement. Blue Nile mapped the journey from invitation to membership; V. A. Voices sequenced club learning and meeting roles; Montgomery moved a returning guest from observer to speaker and role holder, then used team play to broaden participation. The reusable principle is simple: define the next step, make it welcoming, provide support, and record what changed.

Use this summary: At your next Club Executive Committee meeting, select one practice, name one owner, and choose one measure that will show whether the practice helped members or guests.

Source basis: August 2026 cycle nomination narratives and supporting materials. Club-reported results are presented for learning and have been edited only for clarity and brevity.

PARTICIPANT PRACTICE PROFILE

Blue Nile Toastmasters, Memphis

Club #03323744 | Area 21, Division M | R.I.S.E. emphasis submitted: Recruit

1	3	6	3 days
new member	education levels	officers trained	application to payment

Practice 1 | Build a complete guest-to-member journey

Blue Nile described a deliberate sequence that moved one guest from invitation to membership without leaving the next step to chance.

The repeatable sequence

1. Invite the prospect to a specific meeting and make the value of attending clear.
2. Follow up before the meeting with the date, access details, and a personal welcome.
3. Welcome the guest by name and help them understand what will happen.
4. Offer a low-risk participation opportunity, such as Table Topics.
5. Ask for the guest's opinion about the meeting and club activities.
6. Make a clear, direct invitation to join when interest is evident.
7. Send the application promptly and follow through until the process is complete.

Club-reported outcome: The guest submitted an application and payment within three days.

Practice 2 | Pair recruitment with visible member development

Recruitment is more sustainable when prospects can see that current members are learning and leaders are prepared. Blue Nile also reported three education-level completions, six trained officers, and an in-house Moments of Truth training and open discussion.

How another club can adapt it

- Reserve 10-15 minutes once a month for a focused education or officer-learning segment.
- Connect the topic to one Club Success Plan action and identify who will own it.
- Recognize completed education levels and training at the next meeting.
- Invite guests to observe the development culture and explain how they can participate.

Measure: Track guests, follow-up completed within 24 hours, return visits, applications, payments, 30- and 60-day retention, education levels, and officers trained.

PARTICIPANT PRACTICE PROFILE

V. A. Voices Toastmasters Club

Club #651363 | Area 11, Division L | R.I.S.E. emphasis submitted: Encourage

4	8 weeks	1	3
MOT sessions	roles scheduled	new member in a role	social images

Practice 1 | Turn Moments of Truth into a learning cycle

Instead of treating Moments of Truth as a single exercise, V. A. Voices scheduled a four-part July learning series so members could focus on one cluster of the club experience at a time.

Four-session model

Session	Focus
July 7	First Impressions and Membership Orientation
July 14	Fellowship, Variety, and Communication
July 21	Program Planning and Meeting Organization
July 28	Membership Strength and Achievement Recognition

How another club can adapt it

- Approve the learning cycle through the Club Executive Committee and select a facilitator for each session.
- Use a 10-15 minute meeting segment and capture one improvement action each week.
- Assign an owner and due date, then review progress at the next executive meeting.

Practice 2 | Plan roles ahead - and onboard by doing

V. A. Voices reported using an eight-week scheduling system and placing a new member into an agenda role connected to Level 1 preparation before the Ice Breaker. The combination makes development visible and gives members time to prepare.

How another club can adapt it

- Publish meeting roles six to eight weeks ahead and invite members to select roles that support their learning goals.
- Give each new member a suitable first role, a preparation note, and a buddy or mentor.
- Debrief after the role and use the conversation to schedule the Ice Breaker or next Pathways step.
- Extend the learning beyond the meeting by turning education topics into simple social posts; V. A. Voices reported three July images.

Measure: Track role-fill rate, first role within 30 days, Ice Breaker scheduled and completed, repeat participation, session attendance, improvement actions closed, and member feedback.

PARTICIPANT PRACTICE PROFILE

Montgomery Toastmasters

Club #1334 | Area 33, Division N | R.I.S.E. emphasis submitted: Speak

1	2	3	11-10
new member	Ice Breakers	guest stages	World Cup result

Practice 1 | Build a low-pressure guest participation pathway

July began with two new members delivering Ice Breaker speeches. Montgomery also reported that recurring guest Thad, who first encountered Toastmasters through the club's 2019 Youth Leadership partnership, progressed from observing on Zoom to participating in person and serving in a meeting role.

The repeatable pathway

1. Welcome a first-time or returning guest with an observer-first option and a named club contact.
2. Offer a low-risk speaking opportunity, such as Table Topics, when the guest feels ready.
3. Invite the guest to a simple meeting role and provide clear preparation guidance.
4. Ask for feedback after each step and agree on one comfortable next opportunity.

Club-reported progression: Thad moved from Zoom observer to in-person Table Topics participant and Ah-Counter.

Practice 2 | Turn participation into a team challenge

Montgomery's Toastmasters World Cup used friendly team competition to reward behaviors that strengthen speaking, learning, and inclusion. The club reported full member participation and a close 11-10 finish.

How another club can adapt it

- Create two balanced teams and publish simple rules before the meeting.
- Award points for Table Topics, Word of the Day use, guest participation, educational trivia, and completion challenges.
- Give guests optional, low-pressure ways to contribute points to a team.
- Assign a scorekeeper and close with a short debrief on participation and learning.

Measure: Track attendance, Table Topics speakers, guest participation, first-time role holders, points by activity, feedback, and repeat participation at later meetings.

DISTRICT 77 QUICK-START PLAYBOOK

Adopt one practice in the next 30 days

Start small, document the process, and measure whether it improved the member or guest experience.

Five practical starting points

1 Standardize the guest journey

Use Blue Nile's invite-follow-up-welcome-participate-feedback-ask-follow-through sequence.

2 Schedule a Moments of Truth learning segment

Use one focused topic, capture one action, assign one owner, and revisit it.

3 Publish a six- to eight-week role plan

Use V. A. Voices' planning horizon and connect a new member's first role to a Pathways goal.

4 Run a participation challenge

Use Montgomery's team format to reward speaking, learning, role-taking, and guest inclusion.

5 Track a small balanced evidence set

Record what happened, who benefited, what changed, and what another club could repeat.

A simple 30-day implementation plan

Week	Action	Evidence to keep
1	Choose one practice, name an owner, and record the current baseline.	Owner, baseline, target
2	Launch the checklist, learning segment, forward role schedule, or team challenge.	Checklist, schedule, or rules
3	Collect participation data and ask one short feedback question.	Counts and comments
4	Review results, recognize contributors, and choose one improvement.	Result and next action

EVIDENCE AND REUSE

Measure, learn, and share

A best practice becomes transferable when the action, result, and evidence are easy to understand.

Best-practice test: Can another club understand the action, try it with ordinary volunteer capacity, and know what evidence would show that it worked? If yes, the practice is ready to share.

Minimum useful measures by R.I.S.E. pillar

Recruit: guests, follow-up, return visits, applications, conversions, retention

Inspire: mentor connections, recognition, fellowship, participation, confidence feedback

Speak: prepared speeches, roles, evaluations, first-time speakers, workshops

Encourage: onboarding milestones, officer training, education levels, support actions

IMPACT: before/after change, beneficiary feedback, photos or links, documented process

Keep a lightweight evidence record

- Action: what the club did, including dates or frequency.
- Owner: who coordinated the practice and who helped.
- Participation: how many guests, members, or leaders took part.
- Outcome: what changed, completed, improved, or was learned.
- Evidence: a count, short testimonial, photo, agenda, checklist, or link.
- Next step: what the club will repeat, adapt, or stop.

Program resources

District 77 COTM Evaluation Panel Guide and Scoring Rubric: [Open the guide](#)

Questions or best-practice submissions: [Elena Fadairo, COTM Program Chair, District 77 | elena.fadairo@gmail.com](#)

Prepared from the August 2026 COTM nominations, the District 77 COTM Program Toolkit 2026-2027, the District 77 Evaluation Panel Guide and Scorecard 2026-2027, and Toastmasters International Moments of Truth. Details are summarized for learning; no score, ranking, or winner is stated or implied.