

HOW TO BECOME A DISTINGUISHED (OR BETTER!) CLUB

Can your club do it? *Absolutely!* Becoming a **Distinguished, Select Distinguished, or President's Distinguished Club** merely tells the world that your club is meeting and exceeding the needs of its members. Here are some easy tips to make sure your club is Distinguished (*or better!*) year after year:

- ❖ **ATTEND CLUB OFFICER TRAINING** offered by your District. Learn valuable ideas and tips for success.
- ❖ **SET AN EXECUTIVE MEETING** (all club officers) to complete your Club Success Plan (how your club will meet the 10 Distinguished Club Program Goals). Use the Toastmasters International handbook "*Distinguished Club Program/Club Success Plan*" to guide you.
- ❖ **CREATE BUY-IN** from your club members. Present the Successful Club Series Module "*How to Be a Distinguished Club.*" Share the Club Success Plan with your entire membership. Display the Distinguished Club Program Progress Chart (sent to all Club Presidents) or create your own tracking system.
- ❖ **AT EACH CLUB MEETING**, discuss with the entire membership progress in the Distinguished Club Program. Recognize successes and motivate members to help achieve the goals.
- ❖ **CONSTANTLY FOLLOW-UP** with members to help them meet their personal goals—which in turn helps the club meet its goals.
- ❖ **REMEMBER TO FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP**—in addition to the 10 Distinguished Club Program goals, your club must end the year with either 20 members or a net growth of five members.
- ❖ **PROMOTE THE MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**—a Toastmasters program that helps your club recognize those active, involved members and encourages others to become active also. This program helps your club and members to grow—and directly relates to the Distinguished Club Program! This is item #1115 in the Toastmasters supply catalog.
- ❖ **PUBLICLY CELEBRATE** each time a goal is met. Recognize those members that achieved goals for the club.
- ❖ **ASK** your Area, Division, or District Governor for help, assistance, and counsel.
- ❖ **BEFORE YOU KNOW IT**, all 10 goals will be met! Congratulations, your club is President's Distinguished! You are serving the needs of your members—and having fun!

Compliments of Gary Schmidt, DTM
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