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## **Celebrating Women's Equality Day on an International Scale**

<**Detroit, Michigan, August 26, 2018**> Today is Women's Equality Day, observed annually in the United States on August 26 to commemorate passage of the 19th Amendment.

Women make up 50 percent of the U.S. population, but are disproportionately underrepresented in leadership positions, yet only 25 percent of legislators and 29 percent of business executives are female, according to a study by the American Association of University Women.

### **That is why what is happening in Toastmasters - locally and internationally - is so important.**

For the first time in its 30 year history, Unity IV Toastmasters Club in Warren, Michigan, has elected an all-female leadership team. "It is an honor to be working with this group of women who are inspired to do good work, and who are inspiring others to better themselves and reach their goals," says Betina Echols, Club President. Unity IV is one of 123 clubs in Toastmasters District 28, representing southeast Michigan, northwest Ohio, and southern Ontario, Canada.

On Saturday, 25, 2018, the Toastmasters International World Championship of Public Speaking ended with three women in the top slots, for the first time since women were allowed to join and compete, in the late 1970s. The competition began in 1938. Anita Fain Taylor, representing southern Florida and the Bahamas, took third place. Second place went to Zifang Su, representing the Beijing area of China, and Ramona J. Smith from the greater Houston, Texas area became the 2018 World Champion. About 30,000 people across the planet participate in the competition, starting at the club level. The 2019 cycle begins in December of this year.

"Our goal is to get more club exposure via social media and club promotions to reach those who need help with confidence in public speaking and leadership skills," says Colette Hughes, Secretary and Immediate Past President of the Unity IV Club.

The results of the World Championships make it clear we are doing something right!

To learn more about District 28, contact Linda Anger, DTM at [publicrelations@d28toastmasters.org](mailto:publicrelations@d28toastmasters.org), or visit [www.d28toastmasters.org](http://www.d28toastmasters.org)

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### **About Toastmasters International**

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. The organization's membership exceeds 352,000 in more than 16,400 clubs in 141 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).