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Richmond resident is semifinalist in the world's largest speech contest

Rita Flores Moore rose above a pool of 30,000 Toastmasters participants

Richmond, Virginia, June 05, 2017 – Rita Flores Moore of Richmond, Virginia, outshined an estimated 200 local contestants to win the district-level competition of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest. Moore advances to the semifinal rounds of the contest, vying for one of 10 spots in the [World Championship of Public Speaking](#)® to be held at the Toastmasters International Convention Friday, Aug. 25 in Vancouver, Canada.

Moore, a member of [Faith Talk Toastmasters](#), in Richmond, Virginia, surpassed fierce competition to win over the judges with her speech, “We All Need Friends.” The speech touched on the theme of friendship and how good it is to have someone who will laugh with you when you’re happy and share tears when you’re down. When it comes to this subject Moore says, “I encourage listeners to develop and keep great friendships because a true friend is closer than a brother.

Moore joined Toastmasters to improve her communication skills and has stayed for more than 15 years because she enjoys helping others achieve their goals and can never stop learning. She has earned the Distinguished Toastmaster title, the highest educational achievement in Toastmasters. Moore has also served in every club officer position available, as well as Area Governor.

Moore will compete with 101 other winners from districts around the world who advanced to the 2017 semifinal round after a six-month process of elimination through club, area, division and district speech competitions. Their five- to seven-minute speeches were judged on content, organization, gestures and style.

The Toastmasters International Speech Contest began in 1938 and is the world’s largest speech contest, involving 30,000 participants from 142 countries. It culminates with the popular World Championship of Public Speaking held annually at the organization’s [International Convention](#).

To interview Moore, learn more about the contest or Toastmasters club membership, contact Emily Baine, Public Relations Manager for District 66. Follow [@Toastmasters](#) International on Twitter to track Moore’s progress.

About District 66

District 66 consists of 121 clubs across the greater part of Virginia, to include Hampton Roads, Richmond and the Shenandoah Valley. To learn more about District 66 visit: <http://district66.org>.

About Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., the organization’s membership exceeds 345,000 in more than 15,900 clubs in 142 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. Follow [@Toastmasters](#) on Twitter.