

Top Toastmasters Vie for Public Speaking Title on Saturday

World Championship of Public Speaking in Palm Desert, Calif., includes 81 competitors

WHO: Sponsored by Toastmasters International, a nonprofit organization that has helped more than 4 million people hone their public speaking and leadership skills.

WHAT: The annual Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking, featuring the top qualifiers from a months-long competition. Eighty-one contestants from around the world perform at the Toastmasters International Convention. Speakers in the competition deliver five- to seven-minute presentations on wide-ranging topics, and are judged on content, organization, gestures and style. (Watch this video of the last three winners.)

WHEN: Semifinal rounds take place between 3 and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12. The nine winners will compete in the finals at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14.

WHERE: The Toastmasters International Convention, Aug. 11-14, at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, 74855 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert. The Convention opens on Wednesday night Aug. 11 with a keynote presentation by E! Entertainment television host and Toastmaster Todd Newton and offers a variety of educational sessions on communication and leadership topics that are led by high-profile experts.

WHY: Called the "Olympics of oratory," the prestigious contest features riveting speakers whose stories are dramatic, humorous and inspirational.

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About Toastmasters

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has 250,000 members in 12,500 clubs in 106 countries. Since its founding 85 years ago in October 1924, Toastmasters International has helped more than four million men and women give presentations with poise and confidence. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org

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/PRNewswire -- Aug. 9/

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