



Valerie Fuson, DTM

*Keynote Speaker, Communication Strategist, and
Certified Speaking & Storytelling Coach
D30 Past District Director
(2022-2023)*

Valerie Fuson is a keynote speaker, communication strategist, and Certified Speaking & Storytelling Coach who helps leaders elevate their voice, influence, and visibility. A Distinguished Toastmaster, Past District 30 Director, and 29-year Toastmasters leader, she blends storytelling, influence psychology, and Second City–trained improvisation to deliver engaging, experiential programs that strengthen leadership presence, communication, and collaboration.

Educational Workshop Session

“Mic Drop:”

*Your Voice Changes the Room the Courage to
Speak, Lead, and Lift Others*

Ever had a great idea, an encouraging word, or a bold thought—and kept it to yourself? What if the sentence you didn’t say was the one that could change the room? In this energetic and interactive session, Valerie Fuson explores how the courage to use your voice can spark ideas, open doors, and lift the people around you. Through engaging stories, reflection, and a simple interactive exercise, you’ll experience how speaking up—even before you feel ready—builds influence, inspires leadership, and creates opportunity. Because when one voice rises with courage, it gives others permission to rise too.

Beyond the Mic: 3 Takeaways to Transform:

1. Use Your Voice:

Leadership begins the moment you speak up with an idea, encouragement, or perspective that moves others forward.

2. Choose Courage Over Waiting:

You don’t need to feel ready. Speaking up builds confidence, credibility, and leadership presence.

3. Lift Other Voices:

One sentence of encouragement can change someone’s path. When one voice rises with courage, it gives others permission to rise too.