



District Council Meeting Minutes of District 106
May 2, 2020

District Director, Dave Gibson DTM, called the meeting to order at 10:45 am

Administration Manager, Carin Hemmesch, DTM, read the District Mission

A Quorum was achieved. The District had 104 of the 67 needed officers.

Agenda was adopted.

Minutes from September 2019 Virtual District Meeting was adopted.

Appointments: Crystal Anderson, Timer, Ben Smith and Joanna Carley were tellers.

Unfinished Business: None

Leadership Reports:

Division A:

Our Division has a large footprint that spans the northeastern region of Minnesota and a section of Ontario Canada. Our active clubs sit within 250-miles (400 kms) of each other, but our Division has 750 miles (1200 km) from one end to the other, which would have to include driving and catching plane to get all the way up to Winisk, ON, Canada. We currently don't have a club in Winisk, **yet!**

Many of our clubs are centralized in Thunder Bay, ON Canada, and Duluth, MN, with additional clubs in Hibbing and Sandstone, both located in MN.

Our club count started at 15 this Toastmaster year, but with one club folding in early 2020 (not Covid-19 related) we are down to 14.

Our 14 clubs are persevering though, out of the 14 clubs we have, 11 out of the 14 are meeting virtually. Another 2 are prison clubs who can't meet virtually, but they are following CDC and additional guidelines according to their facility.

At the end of the day, our Division is doing as best as we can during these uncharted times. We have:

- one club that is currently Distinguished, on their way to Select Distinguished
- Four more clubs that are close to distinguished, if more members & goals are gained by the end of the TM year
- Completed two Speechcraft events in Thunder Bay, thanks to the Nanabijou club for planning and leading those great events

I'm very thankful and proud for everything that the Area Directors, club officers and members themselves have done. They've not only worked on themselves, but they've helped others learn and grow also.

Division B:

As of this report, there are 28 clubs currently in the Division.

We have had two clubs that have suspended

-Best Sight Speakers, who have dissolved their charter, but have merged with G.R.E. Energizers of Area 13

-Westwood Toastmasters, last week voted to dissolve their charter

Since the pandemic and the switch, we have seen an increase of clubs try the online format, however, there are a few clubs who have decided to wait until the all clear to meet in person again.

As of April 30th, 19 out of 28 clubs have reached 8 renewals or more (67 %) with clubs now actively sending in payments.

The plan for the rest of the year between me and my AD's is to continue to support our clubs to keep sending in dues, keep in contact with clubs who are not meeting, making sure they are maintaining contact with members and finish their strong so that the incoming Division B Team has a great platform to start with in the 2020-2021 year.

Division C:

Division C has been moving right along this year. We started with a couple of setbacks due to two clubs closing right away and not having a full roster for Area Directors. However, that didn't stop us from pulling together and getting to the end of this year.

As of right now we have several clubs meeting online to continue with their toastmaster journey during this time.

We have had 70% of our renewals submitted which is good considering the circumstances we are all in.

We have, so far, 6 clubs registering as distinguished with several more right there.

All in all I would like to thank my Area Directors for sticking it out with me this year and making it great. I this group and my clubs have taught me valuable lessons and I am very proud of everything we accomplished.

Division D:

Our 25 clubs are densely located between 394 and 494 spanning from Golden Valley to Minnetonka.

We are a mix of both corporate and community clubs. Each one of them has a unique personality all their own. I can guarantee you that a visit to any of them would be well worth your time!

This past year, we created some great memories at the Club, Area, and Division level at club meetings, club officer trainings, speech contests, as well as other special events.

It has been a learning and growing year for all. Members have and continue to push themselves to achieve education awards as they help other members achieve their goals.

Like other Divisions, we are facing membership challenges due to a variety of reasons, yet clubs are thinking creatively to find ways to achieve their membership goals.

Sadly, a few of our corporate clubs were hit hard by layoffs.

With COVID-19, many clubs are meeting online and others are considering it.

We do have some members who are trying to find their place in this new normal, and as a Division Team, we are working closely with the clubs to help them during this time.

All in all, it has been a wonderful year in many respects.

I am truly grateful for the Amazing Area Directors of Division D - Distinguished Toastmaster Randy Hochstein, Zadee B. Larson, Distinguished Toastmaster Bob Dummer, Distinguished Toastmaster David Rasmussen, and Dan Bicknell, all of the Division D Club Officers, and the Members of Division D. It has been a true honor to serve them and with them.

Together, We Are Doing All that We Can to Finish the Toastmasters' Year as Strong as We Possibly Can!!

Division E:

Division E has 22 clubs. This past year, we lost one and are about to gain 1 new club. These clubs are located in three cities including Roseville, St. Paul, and White Bear Lake.

Many clubs have been challenged by the stay at home Executive order, and this has shown in the reduced membership.

Started the year at about 323 members and are now at 254 members. Roughly a 20% reduction in membership.

However, I am happy to report the Area Directors have supported their clubs and many clubs have continued to meet online. Only 3 of the 22 clubs are not currently meeting online. One club is primarily medical professionals and are too busy to meet. The other 2 clubs are actively pursuing options to meet online so we are staying engaged as much as possible.

I believe this support from the Area Directors to keep the clubs engaged helped in the club renewals.

I am proud to share that Division E had the best club renewal rate with a 91% of clubs renewing. Only two clubs missed the renewal; one club was noted earlier with medical professionals, and the second is a low member club currently with only 7 members but has many interested in joining.

Highlight for the year is Zaj Lus Dragonspeakers. They nearly closed the club at the beginning of the year. Today, currently with 18 members, they are the 2nd largest club in the Division. I am looking forward to seeing the club continue to grow.

Division F:

Division F was newly formed by the District 106 Leadership last year, so we are completing our first full year as a division. Division F is a compact division, with all but 4 of our clubs based in downtown St. Paul. The 22 clubs are a mix of corporate, government and community clubs.

Our clubs are experiencing varying levels of stress, and the Division F Area Directors are doing wonderful work staying in touch and helping the clubs the best they can. As of Wednesday night, we've had 210 members renewed, which is about 72% of last fall's renewals. All but one club, as of now, are in good standing.

We've also had some highpoints:

We ran excellent Humorous Speech contests at the club, area and division level.

We assisted in running 4 club officer training sessions. 67 of our club officers were trained in the fall, 57 in the spring.

We've brought one club back from the brink, we think

This has been a year of learning and growth for me. I'd like to thank Dave Burke, Caleb Wirth, Rachel Kraemer, Dave Degenhardt, Dan Grundtner and Judy Rahn for their willingness to help get Division F off the ground and most importantly be a great resource for their perspective clubs. As one of the AD's said at our last AD meeting – our motto was always “What can we do to help”.

I'd also like to thank our District Trio for all of their support this year as well.

Finance Manager Report:

The budget has been posted on the D106 website for everyone to review. The budget was approved by the District Council prior to submission to Toastmasters International.

The findings and signatures of the audit committee for the Mid-Year Audit have been posted to the website and are available for review as well.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to submit your expenses as soon as possible while we approach the end of the Toastmasters year.

Public Relations Manager report:

PR by the numbers

Club Growth Director Report:

Fellow Toastmasters: This has been an awesome year so far. We started the year off with a newly chartered club, several clubs in the works and our members are enjoying their toastmaster experiences. It has been a lot of fun watching our members and perspective members grow through their experiences.

Although, our District, like all District's around the world began meeting online due to COVID-19. Our members took on this new challenge and have found a new way to still participate in

club meetings. Several clubs have grown in membership due to the opportunity to participate in an online club meeting which is awesome.

During this time, I am enjoying visiting our clubs online and working with our members as they continue their Toastmaster journey.

In addition, during this time I'm still working the leads that have been received from our members and Toastmasters International, the only exception is, instead of meeting in person were meeting through Zoom. This is allowing the groundwork to be laid for when the opportunity to meet in person becomes available.

So far this toastmaster year, 10 club coaches were placed to assist our low member clubs.

Thank you to all the club coaches and mentors that are assisting our members and clubs.

As we look ahead, we can see the many opportunities that lay before us. Together we can make a difference, together we can change lives.

We have 2 months left before the end of the year. As a team, I believe we can finish the year strong.

Program Quality Director Report:

At the beginning of the year, we knew that we had big changes ahead and the challenges that come with them. The biggest of them being the transition of the education program. My plan at the beginning of the year to make this transition year smoother and embrace the changes was to shift the focus from the "how" of Toastmasters to the "why" of Toastmasters.

To summarize the "why" of Toastmasters, we need to look no further than the Club Mission Statement: "We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth."

As the year has progressed, I noticed more members defining Toastmasters as a communication and leadership development program instead of describing the tasks involved as a member, and with that change of mindset, I've an increase in positive, forward thinking mindset from clubs and members throughout the district.

These results reflect in the data of my report:

- This year, throughout the district, we had 937 club officer training credits earned
- 719 education awards were received by members so far this year, and I anticipate there will be many more before June 30
- Of those 719 education awards, 502 were in Pathways
- 61 members earned the Triple Crown award
- 13 members earned the Distinguished Toastmasters designation

For Distinguished clubs, our current number is 10. There are 42 clubs throughout the district that have enough DCP credit, although are low on membership which is like related to the current stay at home order. As a communication and leadership development organization, we as clubs and members have found ways to continue and succeed through online meetings and our International speech contests, the results in which are growing stronger daily, and I predict our distinguished club count will greatly increase.

We have 2 months left before the end of the year. With the efforts of this years team and the newly elected leaders, I believe that we can finish strong and set a solid foundation for the new year.

Mr. District Director

District Director Report:

These are truly Historic Times that we are living in.. At the beginning of March, we had our last DEC meeting up in Coon Rapids. It was March 7th. We were all gathered together, meeting, laughing, sharing stories, and setting goals for how we would finish this Toastmaster's year strong.

We had heard about Coronavirus, but it was a far away problem. We could not have foreseen how it would affect us so soon.

Eight Days later, March 15th, we were meeting again. This time for an Emergency online District Executive Committee Meeting because our world had changed. By that time many clubs, and contest planners were being notified that their meeting spaces were closed, contest venues were canceling reservations. We had to put together a new plan for the end of the year.

Never before in our history had we seen anything like this. Not in wars, or famine, or other events have we seen schools closed, stay at home orders issued, sporting events canceled. But what I have seen as a leader is my awesome team as they have stepped up to the challenge. We continued with speech contests. We encouraged and supported clubs and members to continue to meet online. And we are coming out of this renewal session as strong as we did last year. We still have a lot of work to do folks, but it makes me proud to serve as a leader, and I owe a huge thanks to my awesome team for all of the work you have done, and continue to do.

It is an honor to serve with you. Thank you,

Items of New Business:

Realignment Report – presented by Michael Carlton, explained the reason to move clubs from Division B to Division A to even out the number of clubs per Division

The realignment was put to vote, and approved by 97%

The following positions were up for election and the following members were voted in

District Director – Michael Carlton – unopposed

Program Quality Director – Kimberlee Redington- unopposed

Club Growth Director – Gopu Shresta – voted upon, and took 69.6% of votes (Gopu received 80, Colbert Fong 30)

Division A- Jennifer Clace – unopposed

Division B- Jin Li- unopposed

Division C – Mitchell Shaeffer – unopposed

Division D – Norm Johnson-Korbuly -unopposed

Division E - Anna Gachias – unopposed

Division F – Dave Degenhardt – unopposed

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm