



Meeting Minutes of District 106

Fall Business Meeting September 11, 2021

Call to Order:

District Director Kimberlee Redington called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

A moment of silence was observed on this twenty-year anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks against the U.S. to remember the lives lost, their families, and their communities.

Reading of the District Mission:

The mission was read by Administration Manager Anna Gaichas.

Trio Reports:

District Director's Report – Kimberlee Redington

Fellow Council Members,

I am grateful and blessed for my team that has stepped up to serve the clubs, areas, and divisions of District 106.

The 2021-2022 Toastmaster year is a year of change, excitement, and new adventures. While we are still trying to fill some of the open positions in our district, many of our members, Area Directors, and Division Directors have stepped up to ensure our members' needs are being met. To you, I say thank you for going the extra mile, for giving of your time, and paying it forward.

We are still looking for Area Directors to fill openings in our district. Like many districts throughout Toastmasters, we are still struggling to find Area Directors.

Our team is excited for what the Toastmaster year will bring to our District.

Starting this month, I will be holding an optional monthly call-in for all Club Presidents as an open forum discussion with the District Director. If you are a Club President, please keep an eye out for this invitation.

Program Quality Director's Report – Gopu Shrestha

Fellow Council Members,

- Our team was able to train 70% (512 officers) from Active clubs in D106. Thank you to all club officers who attended the training.
- 2nd round of club officer training will begin November 1, 2021, and will continue through February 28, 2022
- Our team is currently preparing for the Winter TLI scheduled on Feb 19, 2022. Dave Hoffman has been appointed as TLI Chair. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the Winter TLI please feel free to reach out to Dave Hoffman through our District Directory located on our D106 website.

- Fall Speech Contests are currently under way. Please visit our District 106 website to learn more about when the Area and Division Speech Contest will be. Our Area and Division Directors are looking for volunteers to assist with their Speech Contests.
- Monthly VP Education sessions with Program Quality Director the next meeting is on September 15th with Catherine Secundiak, DTM, Region Advisor, Region 4
- The Monthly Toolbox Meeting will be uploaded to the D106 calendar. Please keep checking our district calendar for updates.

Thank you all for being intact with clubs and helping members to grow in this pandemic. Please help the District and its events to help members to get their best from District officers.

Club Growth Director's Report– Ed Aylward

While undergoing TI training for trio members, I have been establishing relationships with our Region Advisors and other Region 4 Club Growth Directors. This has proven to be a valuable source of ideas regarding our District budget and specifically a District 106 marketing plan. I have been collecting some media contact information for small community newspapers. I have researched public transportation advertising options in Thunder Bay, Ontario, in Duluth and in St Cloud, MN. I have had some conversations with District PR manager Johnny Harbieh regarding anticipated advertising efforts.

I have met with Club Retention committee chair David Peterson to review the status of clubs eligible for coaching as listed on the weekly report by Mike Raffety.

I have met by Zoom with Club Extension Chair Brian Peters to let him know what potential club demo meetings may be added to our agenda soon. We have also discussed the status of a team evaluations-focused club chartering in Duluth.

I have met by Zoom with Club Coaching Chair Mark Skipper to review the status of those people who have been serving our District as club coaches, to brainstorm additional coaches, and to prepare a Club Coaches training session.

I have had follow-up communications with a business consulting firm, Spinnaker Support (they consult regarding JD Edwards ERP systems). Spinnaker has expressed interest in creating a corporate Toastmasters club.

I have made follow-up email communications to nVent corporation, Blue Chip Financial, and Recovery Café.

I provided a club dissolution form to Talk O' the Town Toastmasters club as they have chosen not to continue at this time. The form was completed and submitted to TI.

While this sounds like a dry list of tasks, it is engaging and energizing work with great opportunities to interact with fellow Toastmasters and prospective Toastmasters.

I had the great pleasure of visiting North Shore Toastmasters in Duluth. I was present for a joint meeting of Land O'Lakes Buttermasters with North Side Toastmasters.

In my spare time I took in some educational/informative presentations at the TI annual meeting and enjoyed the semi-finals and finals of the World Championship of Public Speaking.

Credentials Report (Administration Manager, Anna Gaichas):

District 106 has a total of 105 Clubs with 2 votes per club held by the President & VP Education. To have a quorum we need a total of 70 (1/3) Club votes. We have a total of 63 club votes and a total of 16 Delegates at Large today.

The District does not have a quorum.

District Director Kimberlee Redington announced the standing rules. They were adopted without any objections.

Adoption of the Agenda (District Director Kimberlee Redington):

The agenda was adopted without any objections.

Meeting Appointments:

Michael Carlton was appointed as Timer.

Anna Gaichas was appointed as Minute Taker.

Approval of Minutes:

The Spring Business Meeting minutes were approved without any corrections.

Approval of Appointees:

Since the last District Council meeting, District Director Kimberlee Redington has appointed the list of District leader appointees/officers shown on the screen and posted to the d106tm.org website. These officers have been confirmed by the District Executive Committee and must be approved by the District Council.

There were no objections to the appointees. The officers are appointed as noted.

Adoption of the District Budget:

The budget has been posted on the d106tm.org website for everyone to review. The budget as posted and visible on the shared screen has been reviewed by World Headquarters to ensure that the District followed proper district guidelines. In addition, upon approval of the District Council, the budget will be submitted to Toastmasters International as approved.

Question from Diane Windingland, Past District Director and VPE of PowerTalk Toastmasters #1746748 and Readership Toastmasters #6602725 related to the policy for determining this budget.

Response from Club Growth Director Ed Aylward, called on by the Chair:

Thank you for the question. Immediate past International President Richard Peck provided a 23 July 2021 letter to all Toastmasters districts advising that it is permissible for districts to budget a financial loss up to 20% of their annual budget. Our district focus is to help all Toastmasters by adding clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence. While PQD Shrestha is focused on providing each club the tools with which to be successful, I have focused a large portion of our budget on extending our district's network of clubs. Resources will be focused on helping struggling clubs recover and grow. That growth will come from outside Toastmasters and that is where a substantial portion of our marketing budget is focused. The Toastmasters brand and success story will be brought to many communities and corporations presently outside Toastmasters. Greater member numbers won't correct every issue we face but attracting more members will help us to fulfill our District mission and ease the burden on smaller clubs by expanding meeting role holders and their club officer pool by attracting new members. The outcome we are trying to achieve is distinguished status for our District. Our budget priorities help us to prepare the foundation upon which this District may become

distinguished and remain so for more than one year. It is a long-term vision presently supported by an aggressive short term marketing budget. We are choosing to invest in the future of District 106.

Follow-up question from Diane Windingland:

What is the money going to be spent on?

Response from Ed Aylward:

As you know, it is easy to spend money. I am focused on getting the most return on our advertising dollars. For example, the first proposal I received from MN Public Radio proposed advertising costs more than our entire marketing budget. Spending up to \$800 will buy electronic billboard advertising for a couple of months.

Follow-up question from Diane Windingland:

Will Toastmasters International allow that additional amount?

Response from Ed Aylward:

Expenditures on marketing outside of Toastmasters are approved. I again refer to former International President Peck's 23 July letter. I also remind you that our budget has been reviewed by Toastmasters International and found to be acceptable as written.

A quorum was not met, therefore voting took place following the meeting via email. The budget was approved, via email voting.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

Declarations:

Gopu Shrestha declared his candidacy for District Director.

Edward Aylward declared his candidacy for Program Quality Director.

There were no other declarations.

Further Announcements:

Anne Groetsch, VPE, Golden Toastmasters #1640675 asked about the D106 Spring Conference.

Kimberlee Redington reminded everyone the 2022 Spring Conference was decided by vote to be all online.

Beth Plamondon, President, Allianz Toasters #8067 noted that Madame and Mister are not sensitive to those with other gender identities. The District is encouraged to consider excluding those titles when addressing meeting participants.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.