



Call to Order:

District Director Kimberlee Redington called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

Reading of the District Mission:

The mission was read by Administration Manager Anna Gaichas.

Credentials Report (Karolyn Hoard):

District 106 has **92** clubs in good standing, with 2 votes per club held by the President and Vice President Education for **184** votes possible. One third or **61** club votes, are required for a quorum. We have **86** club votes and a total of **12** Delegates at Large. The district does have a quorum.

Meeting Rules & Adoption of the Agenda:

District Director Kimberlee Redington presented the ground rules for motions and objections. Election Buddy will be used for ballots. All voting members will receive an email. Stand at ease for 5 min while ballots collected. There were no objections to the meeting rules and no objections to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes (Kimberlee Redington):

The minutes of the September 11, 2021 Fall District Council Meeting were approved as posted on the D106 website.

Meeting Appointments (Kimberlee Redington):

Colbert Fong was appointed as timer. Crystal Anderson was appointed as backup timer.

Division Director Reports:

Katy Hursh Division A: Division A has a 215-mile radius, goes up to Thunder Bay. They did a quarterly division newsletter for the first time this year. Two new clubs: North Shore club in Duluth, and Northside Evaluators. North shore is a building club, excited to see them develop. Katy is a sponsor to both. Had some struggling clubs, one considering dissolving, KH met with the core remaining group, have continued mtg and growing their membership. She also joined a 2nd club that had some challenges and they have also grown. Members are growing their skills, membership is growing, have some triple crowns. Two prison clubs: one graduated (folks moved on). Another club was restored thanks to Michael Carlton, Harold Osmundson, and Kimberlee Redington. The division is restoring and readying clubs. We have triumphed and got stronger.

Eli Eldridge Division B: It is challenging due to the Covid malaise, 8 clubs are suspended (mostly outside metro), leaner group with continued success. There are 46 new members in Division B. They did bus ads in St. Cloud thanks to Ed Aylward. Each area held contests, most clubs achieved educational goals, distinguished clubs in each area, clubs have the points but low on members. Welcoming in next generation of members. Looking forward on how we continue to grow in the upcoming year.

Bob Bazinet Division C: making good progress, long way to go to become a distinguished division. Short two Area Directors this year, despite that many clubs doing well. Club renewal base was 18, 16

paid clubs now. Some clubs low on membership, a few low on educational goals but have mems. Area 21 looks to be distinguished. Areas 22 through 25 has no distinguished clubs yet. One club in area 23 facing suspension. Area 24 has one club with opportunity to earn distinguished status and Area 25 has two with this opportunity. Club visits are underway, two completed. Area Directors and Bob are discussing plans for rest of year. Monthly newsletter on focusing on being distinguished and finishing strong. Promoting Beat the Clock and asking clubs to hold elections. Clubs holding picnics. Have been busy with contests. Bob thanks all Area Directors for support.

John Morency Division D: This has been a challenging year for Toastmasters in general and Division D in specific. Many of the members got additional duties and tasks as their companies restructured, their families had health concerns, and COVID continued to affect every area of our lives. Fortunately, the members have come together to put on several successful speech contests and will be well represented at the District Contest. In spite of circumstances beyond our control and even our imagination, we had 2 Area Speech contests in the fall, and two more in the Spring. We had a Division Speech contest in both the Fall and the Spring. Shout outs to clubs: Area 31 Allianz is distinguished. Sunrisers is distinguished and 7 of 7 officers trained in both. As we moved further into the year when there was a need for volunteers they came seemly out of the woodwork. I look forward with optimism for the 2022 – 2023 Toastmasters year for Division D, and District 106. I don't know the challenges we will face, but I do know we will do well!

George Kane Division E:

There is a good deal to be happy about, and proud about, in Division E this year. Two clubs are already Distinguished. Deluxe Toastmasters has been around since 1990, and has been a strong club that has contributed a great deal to the District, including hosting Area and Division contests and providing several Area Directors and other District leaders. It is unfortunate for District 106 that the business is moving to downtown Minneapolis this year, where they will be transferred into District 6. We will miss them, but I wish them the best. MNRPCV, a specialty club catering to Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, was chartered in 2001 and has always been open to anyone. They have always been a large and successful club that has spawned many District leaders. These two Clubs became Distinguished early and easily because of their membership strength. Both have 23 members, and 6 DCP points. But other Clubs can reach Distinguished status if they can put on late membership building. White Bear Toastmasters and Wilder Side each have 7 DCP points. Metropolitan has 6 and Simply Spoken has five. Wordsmith and Freethought have 4 points each. I would like to congratulate the Clubs whose representatives won the Division E Speech Contests and will be competing in the District Conference. Toastmaster On A STick won both the Humorous and International Division Contests. The Division Evaluation Contest was won by MNRPCV and the Table Topics Contest by Wordsmiths. I'm very optimistic that next year will be a year of strong growth for the Clubs now in Division E. We now have some clubs, particularly company clubs, returning to in-person meetings; some clubs remaining online only, and others combining the two into hybrid meetings. While the last couple of years have seen clubs struggling with membership numbers, there remain a lot of long-time members committed to Toastmasters. Nearly one in three club members in Division E first became Toastmasters more than ten years ago (a fantastic statistic).

Ashok Sunkavalli Division F: First he would like to thank all Division F clubs and area directors for this year. Most clubs have done well; always a few clubs that struggle. Of 21 clubs, we have lost 3 clubs in Area 54, main reason is they are corporate clubs, lost due to the Zoom world. Main positive thing to take from this journey: most clubs willing to take challenge, great clubs/leaders. King Boreas is already distinguished and 3M Verbal Innovators close to dist. Area 52: strong area with 5 clubs. Area 53: 5 base clubs, all paid, two distinguished and on the way to select distinguished. Area 54 has one paid club, working on a 2nd club becoming paid. Area 55: some clubs are paid. Working to help clubs achieve distinguished club goals.

Executive Team Reports:

Johnny Harbieh, Public Relations Manager: Thanks to Dr, Lisa Burnside (webmaster), Jessica Parker (social media), and the chemist himself Dave Degenhardt (newsletter). They made the PR Manager job so much easier for him. Our social presence is growing. LinkedIn and Twitter are getting way up there (in views/follows). Encourages use to use the twitter feed Word of the Day. We want to celebrate all the things that made District great. Bring your stories to the public, e.g., member interviews. Go out and share, like, and post. He ran a short video at the end to celebrate PR contest winners for best newsletter, best social media, and best website. It included some honorable mentions. Generate public awareness and keep it positive!

Finance Manager, Jared Ackerman: absent, no report

Administration Manager, Anna Gaichas: no report

Logistics Manager: vacant

Trio Reports:

Ed Aylward, Club Growth Director:

The most rewarding part of a Toastmasters membership and a District Leadership position is relationships with others. I am deeply in debt to my talented team. Thank you to: Brian Peters, Club Extension committee chair; Adriana Fitzgerald Mickols, Club Coach committee chair; David Peterson, Club Retention committee chair; and Vicki Dolphy, Club Sponsors and Club Mentors committee chair. A special thank you to District Director Kimberlee Redington for her guidance and to Program Quality Director Gopu Shrestha for his support. Thank you to our talented Division Directors, Area Directors, club officers, and all District 106 members. Your commitment to excellence during our trying emergence from pandemic is inspiring. I have begun populating a District marketing plan. It should be a helpful starting point for our next Club Growth Director. During October and November of 2021 and again in February and March of 2022, District 106 provided a \$25 Open House incentive to our clubs. Congratulations to Granite Voices for having attained two new members because of their November 2021 Open House. No new clubs have yet chartered, but North Star Evaluators (community) is moving closer to charter strength. Two corporate clubs should soon begin action toward charter: Cirrus Aircraft (Duluth); and nVent Corporation (Twin Cities). Recovery Café Frogtown (Saint Paul) discovered that fees to charter a club wouldn't be practical for an emerging nonprofit but are positioned to host Speechcraft and Youth Leadership events in future. Cargill is moving toward creation of a Spanish language club to be based in South America. Alexandria Technical Community college has begun exploration of the creation of a community club. "Find Your Confidence; Find a Club" is the theme of Toastmasters International advertising templates used by District 106 during this program year. One advertisement appeared on an electronic bulletin board in the heart of the harbor area of Thunder Bay, Ontario, in November 2021 and in May 2022. Print advertising has been placed in Thunder Bay's Walleye Magazine; the Pine Knot (Cloquet and all of Carlton County, MN), and The Brainerd Dispatch. Bus "tails" (advertising on the back end of buses) were displayed in Duluth and Saint Cloud, MN, in February and March 2022. Three different forms of the "Find Your Confidence" advertising are showing in 15 different business locations reaching across the metro area during April, May, and June 2022. With advertising, one never quite knows what may click. We know that the first newspaper ad in Carlton County, MN, generated a new member for a club in the Twin Cities. Advertising was noticed during a weekend visit to "the" lake and was followed up upon returning home. I thank each of you for the opportunity to serve Toastmasters District 106.

Gopu Shrestha, Program Quality Director:

Fellow Members, District Council Members, and Distinguished Guests,

It was a great opportunity to serve as your Program Quality Director for the years 2021-2022. During my tenure, I was able to execute various key events which activated training and development activities. Those are as follows:

- Club officer training Round 1 and 2, where overall 77% of officers trained Round 1 85% and Round 2 67%. Thank you Matt Villella and his team.
- TLI where the Keynote speaker Samantha Smith was a semi-finalist of the International speech contest. We received 109 members who attended
- Speech contest: 2 FALL CONTESTS (Evaluation and Humorous contest) 2 SPRING CONTESTS (Table Topics and International speech)
- Division Director chats: how to be distinguished (two rounds, how to read the data, best practices)
- Program Quality workshops: 1 Youth Leadership and 2 Speech Craft
- Extra activities like Toolbox meeting (did based on requests from Club Officer Training that couldn't cover, all recorded and on d106tm.org) and VP meets with PQD
- Spring Conference: A Mega Event with 3 keynote speakers, 4 district contests, banner parade, the election of new leader platform aka Candidate showcase, Business Meeting, Fun Activities, Last but not least, it was not the number of activities I have done, it's about teamwork and developing next-generation leaders like professional trainers, and event planners like speech contests, TLI, and Spring conferences, pulling various talent in the Toastmasters platform to find their voices and explore opportunities. I would like to thank all my Program Quality Team for stepping up and making my year a successful year!

Kimberlee Redington, District Director:

I have been extremely proud of not only our team but our members. You have made the district successful. It's all about you and your resilience. Thank you for being creative and finding new ways to be successful, for traveling around world and for helping at contests. We did a SWOT analysis at the beginning of the year: the resounding thing was members, need to support and focus on our members. The Division Directors, Ed, and Gopu were creative leaders. Each of us has a leadership mentor. Kimberlee couldn't do anything she has done without the help she received. However there are still 6 weeks left. She acknowledged the Toastmasters International site is down till May 22. She gave Ed the marching orders to promote Toastmasters in St Cloud and to the north. The conference and this year is all about you. Thank you for everything you have done.

Approval of District Realignment (Kimberlee Redington):

The first alignment our District went through is when we became a new District. The second alignment was during the 2019-2020 Toastmaster year when we added Division F to our District causing a major alignment. The third alignment was during the 2020-2021 Toastmaster year. This alignment was a small one with Division A and Division D being the two divisions that were aligned. It was decided to only do a small alignment in hopes that some of the low member clubs/suspended clubs would come back and our District went through a lot since March 17, 2019 with COVID-19.

That brings us to today's alignment. Thank you, to everyone who provided input and recommendation to ensure the alignment worked for our members and clubs. Thank you, Dave Gibson for your assistance with preparing the map. Working on the alignment for the 2022-2023 took several days and hours to ensure it was done correctly. To ensure our clubs for the 2022-2023 and leadership team are setup for success an alignment was needed. Division B was the division that lost the most clubs, with the other divisions losing clubs as well. This has caused us to move clubs north. As clubs were moved around it became clear that we would be losing a division due to the loss of clubs.

The Proposed Alignment has been posted to the District 106 website Annual Conference Business Meeting Section for review for 30 days. In addition, a Townhall meeting was conducted on April 30th and has been emailed out.

Discussion:

Question from Keith Hardy, President of MNRPCV #1284: just a clarifying question, I see 5 divisions in the realignment and I see 6 division director candidates.

Response from Kimberlee Redington: Division F would be absorbed into Division E. Ashok, the division F candidate, would become a floor candidate and can run for any open positions.

Comment from Vicky Dolphi, VPE of North Side Toastmasters #3313064: the proposed Area 14 covers a very large geography, making it challenging for visits.

Response from Kimberlee Redington: yes, that does, but they are not too far away geographically, some out a little, but most are within 30-45 min drive. We did the best we could on that.

Comment from Brian Rice, VPE of Happy Talkers #5172: I don't see Tri-Dynamics listed.

Response from Kimberlee Redington: Tri-Dynamics is in Division D, currently in Area 15 and moving to Area 34.

Call for Vote: Kimberlee Redington called for a vote to approve the alignment. The alignment passed.

Elections of District Officers (Kimberlee Redington):

Leadership Committee Report (Michael Carlton):

The purpose of the District 106 Leadership Committee (DLC) is to ensure an open process to select and supports candidates for district leadership. The DLC recruited, evaluated, and interviewed nominees, including a self-survey of each nominee's leadership experience and willingness to lead. Michael named and thanked the DLC members. They propose these nominees: Gopu Shrestha, DTM, for District Director, Edward Aylward, DTM, for Program Quality Director, Katy Hursh and Matthew Villella, DTM, for Club Growth Director, Denise Sundquist for Division A Director, Daniel DeJoode for Division B Director, Bob Dummer, DTM, for Division C Director, David Rasmussen, DTM, for Division D Director, George Kane, DTM, for Division E Director, and Ashok Sunkavalli, previously a candidate for Division F Director now is eligible as a floor candidate following the approval of the district realignment.

Elections of Officers (Kimberlee Redington):

As we have no declared eligible candidates (with the exception of Ashok), there will be no floor candidates. To be elected, a candidate must receive the majority of the votes, which may necessitate multiple balloting sessions. During balloting, we will stand at ease.

The DLC has nominated Distinguished Toastmaster Gopu Shrestha for the position of District Director. Are there any further nominations? (none). Since the position of District Director is unopposed, I declare elected Distinguished Toastmaster, Gopu Shrestha for the position of District Director. Congratulations Gopu.

The DLC has nominated Distinguished Toastmaster Edward Aylward for the position of Program Quality Director. Are there any further nominations? (none). Since the position of Program Quality Director is unopposed, I declare elected Distinguished Toastmaster Edward Aylward for the position of Program Quality Director. Congratulations Ed.

The DLC has nominated Katy Hursh and Distinguished Toastmaster Matthew Villella for the position of Club Growth Director. Are there any further nominations?(none).

In a contested race, each candidate will be given the opportunity to speak, in alphabetical order by last name, for 2 minutes. The producer escorted Matthew to a breakout room.

Speaking first, Katy Hursh: I believe I would be an excellent Club Growth Director. I work well with people and have a heart for struggling clubs and working with people. I have a coaching leadership style. I ask for your vote.

Speaking second, Distinguished Toastmaster Matthew Villella: I am totally humbled to be here. I don't have a vote. Katy is exceptional. Both of us will do a good job. As I mentioned, I am a 39 year old from Thunder Bay Canada. I'm a fun-loving guy, willing to make mistakes. I'm willing to make the district the great place it is. I'm a walking billboard for TM. I want to bring that energy to the district. I was thinking of this position for 5 years. I am ready to do a good job for you the members. I humbly ask for you vote. I have drive and a Canadian, friendly face. Thank you for your time, all the best.

Kimberlee Redington: Voting is now open. You will have 5 minutes to submit your vote. Ballots are coming via email from ElectionBuddy.

The ballots were sent at 11:30. Stand at ease for 5 minutes.

Kimberlee Redington reminded the assembly to send her a private chat if they did not receive a ballot.

Comment from Kimberlee Redington: Some people are asking if you can only vote once. That is correct.

Announcement at 11:36 from Kimberlee Redington: There were some issues with the balloting being sent out. Please remain standing at ease.

Announcement at 11:49 from Dave Gibson (Zoom host): we will stand at ease for 5 minutes due to experiencing technical difficulties.

Announcement at 11:54: Kimberlee Redington addressed the group via audio through Dave Gibson's Zoom connection. Apologized for delay due to a computer freeze. For those who have not received a ballot, send a private chat to Dave Gibson with club number, officer position and choice for CGD. After Dave receives the votes, we will stand at ease for 5 minutes.

Message from George Deliduka to the Parliamentarian: Any reason we cannot proceed to uncontested races while we wait due to the glitch?

Response from Kimberlee Redington: yes, we need to wait because whoever is not voted in as CGD is eligible to run for any of the Division Director positions.

Dave Gibson received 4 ballots. Last call for ballots at 11:58.

At 11:59: Kimberlee Redington announced balloting is now closed. We will stand at ease for five minutes.

Kimberlee Redington announced the vote results at 12:03.

47 votes Katy Hursh, 42 for Matt. Katy Hursh with 53% of votes is the winner. Thank you to Matt for running. I declare elected Club Growth Director Katy Hursh.

The DLC has nominated Denise Sundquist for the position of Division A Director. Are there any further nominations?(none). Since the position of Division A Director is unopposed, I declare elected Denise Sundquist for the position of Division A Director.

The DLC has nominated Daniel DeJoobe for the position of Division B Director. Are there any further nominations?(none). Since the position of Division B Director is unopposed, I declare elected Daniel DeJoode for the position of Division B Director

The DLC has nominated Distinguished Toastmaster Bob Dummer for the position of Division C Director. Are there any further nominations?(none). Since the position of Division C Director is unopposed, I declare elected Distinguished Toastmaster Bob Dummer for the position of Division C Director.

The DLC has nominated Distinguished Toastmaster David Rasmussen for the position of Division D Director. Are there any further nominations?(none). Since the position of Division D Director is unopposed, I declare elected Distinguished Toastmaster David Rasmussen for the position of Division D Director

The DLC has nominated Distinguished Toastmaster George Kane for the position of Division E Director. Are there any further nominations?(none). Since the position of Division E Director is unopposed, I declare elected Distinguished Toastmaster George Kane for the position of Division E Director

Installation of District Officers (Michael Carlton): He is officially inducting new leaders and pledging our support. First thanked current trio and Division Directors. Announced elected Division Directors. As Division Directors will you do your best to support the district mission, please unmute and say we will. Thank you newly elected Division Directors on your roles.

Announced incoming CGD, PQD, DD. Virtually passing gavel around. Symbol of authority. Katy Hursh: responsibilities of CGD are to build new clubs and support clubs in the district. Will you do your best to serve the district? I will.

PQD: Ed: to oversee education, events, speech contests, TLIs and the annual conference. Will you do your best to serve the district? I will.

DD: Gopu: Oversee operations of the District, support the leadership team and members of D106 with the goal of becoming distinguished and support all members. Embody TM values of respect, service, excellence, and integrity. Will you accept these responsibilities? I will.

Division Directors and Dist leaders, will you commit to working as a team to meet goals? We will.

New Business: none

Announcements:

The Conference Chair placed a chat noting the next keynote starts at 1:00.

The next District Council meeting for District 106 will be held virtually on September 10, 2022.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:18pm.