



Meeting Minutes of District 106

Fall Business Meeting September 11, 2022

Call to Order:

District Director Gopu Shrestha called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Reading of the District Mission:

The mission was read by Program Quality Director, Ed Aylward.

Adoption of the Agenda (District Director Gopu Shrestha):

Agenda was sent via email and posted on the District website. Audit Committee report will not be presented today. The agenda was adopted without any objections, additions, or deletions.

Meeting Appointments (District Director Gopu Shrestha):

Anna Gaichas, DTM was appointed as timer.

Diane Windingland, DTM was appointed as Credentials Committee Chair.

Dave Gibson, DTM was appointed as Electronic Election Commission Chair

Michael Orr was not present, so Diane Windingland, DTM was appointed as Meeting Parliamentarian.

Explanation of Voting Procedure (Meeting Parliamentarian Diane Windingland):

Ballots will be sent via ElectionBuddy. Ballots will be sent via email. Ballots were accidentally sent last night but will be sent again today.

Dave Gibson:

The ballot was sent at 10:53 PM last night. When it is time to vote, the voting will be reopened and voting can be done using the same link. Dave Gibson will resend the ballot if necessary and apologizes for confusion.

Credentials Report (Credentials Committee Chair Diane Windingland):

There are 98 eligible clubs in the District, and each club receives 2 votes, one for the President and one for the Vice President Education. To achieve a quorum, 1/3 of the Presidents and Vice Presidents Education of eligible clubs must be represented, which is 66. There are 72 Presidents and Vice Presidents Education present, thus we have achieved a quorum. There are also 23 District Executive Committee members represented, but do not count toward achieving a quorum. The total number of ballots is 95. If everyone votes, a simple majority would be 48, and a 2/3 vote would be 64.

The credentials report was adopted.

(Diane addressed question in chat from Valerie Stachour: "If there is only 59 people on the Zoom, how do we have 70+ people considered to be in the meeting?")

The 72 voters represented from clubs and 23 voters represented from District leaders comes from the registered voters for the meeting.

Posted in chat by Diane: "On the credentials counting of votes, some people have 2 or 3 votes. For example if someone is a President or VPE of more than one club, they would have 2 votes. If that person is also in the DEC, they would have an additional vote.")

Approval of Minutes (District Director Gopu Shrestha):

The Spring Business Meeting minutes from May 14, 2022 were displayed on screen. The minutes were approved as posted with no objections.

Approval of Appointees (District Director Gopu Shrestha):

Since the last District Council meeting, District Director Gopu Shrestha has appointed 23 Area Directors and 20 District mentors and Committee Chairs. The list of District leader appointees/officers was shown on the screen as posted to the d106tm.org website. These officers have been confirmed by the District Executive Committee and must be approved by the District Council. The appointees were approved as posted with no objections.

Approval of the District Budget (District Director Gopu Shrestha):

Every year the District prepares a budget and presents it to our District Executive Committee for review, and submit it to Toastmasters International World Headquarters (WHQ) for approval. This budget was reviewed during the District Executive Committee held on August 6, 2022, and WHQ approved it on August 13, 2022. The budget has been posted on the d106tm.org website for everyone to review. Upon approval of the District Council, the budget will be submitted to WHQ as approved.

Presentation of the District Budget (Finance Manager Janet Osmundson):

The budget is aligned with the membership dues projected provided by WHQ for this year. The allocations meet the guidelines provided by WHQ. The budget is allocated as follows:

Education and Training - \$4,580
Marketing Outside Toastmasters - \$3,075
Club Growth - \$4,600
Public Relations - \$3,050
Recognition - \$6,102
Travel - \$7,617
Lodging - \$4,560
Food and Meals - \$4,580
Speech Contests - \$1,525
Administration - \$3,063

Membership Dues Projected - \$30,645

Approval of the District Budget (District Director Gopu Shrestha):Question from Keith Hardy:

Could you explain what it means that Toastmasters International is more strict with the budget? How does that impact our District?

Response from District Director Gopu Shrestha:

When we were at the International Convention, we were in a finance meeting and there were a lot of questions about increasing our budget because we are moving to in-person activities which will cost more. The WHQ executive committee has come up with a budget which is allocated all over the world for Districts. They decided the limits based on last year's projections. Last year's revenue to WHQ was drastically reduced, so even though we asked for more budget, it was denied. We are trying to serve members the best with the budget we have.

The 2022-2023 District budget was adopted with no further questions or objections.

Division Director Reports:

Division A Director Denise Sundquist:

As the weather is starting to cool down, Division A is starting to heat up. We are off to a solid start. 8 of 13 clubs had 4+ officers trained, and 4 clubs were "Magnificent Seven." The tallest tales are being written and table topics are being honed as club, area, and division speech contests are planned for September and October. Division A has a history of executing quality speech contests and being competitive at the District level. Area Directors are also beginning to outline their club visits and promoting Club Success Plans and promoting Moments of Truth. However, my Area Directors are feeling overwhelmed between officer training, club visits, and organizing speech contests. I am concerned about my Area Directors' time commitment, not only leading their Area but continuing to be enthusiastic contributors at the club level.

Division B Director Daniel DeJoode – not present

Division C Director Bob Dummer:

Division C has been focused on encouraging all our club officers to be trained. At this time, we have had 70% of the club officers trained and 3 clubs that had all their officers trained. The three clubs that were fully trained were: North Side Toastmasters, Toastmaster on a Stick, and Shock, Rhythm and Talk Toastmasters. I have had the Area Directors all remind their clubs that the club dues must be submitted by October 1st and they need to renew a minimum of 8 members to be able to compete in the fall speech contests. We are starting to promote our upcoming speech contests. I think we have most of our area contests scheduled and hopefully we will get those on the calendar within the next week. We have started having some of our area meetings with our clubs and reports and we are finding that we have a number of clubs that are very low member clubs. One of my Area Directors reported that he went to a meeting with only 2 members present, but they still completed a meeting with speeches and evaluations. We are trying to brainstorm and figure out ways we can improve our membership, looking at open houses and those types of things. We are looking forward to continuing to go forward and are excited about the speech contests that are coming up.

Division D Director David Rasmussen:

13 of the 20 clubs in Division D are credited with having 4 officers trained. There is a niche for corporate clubs where the needs might be a little different or specialized. We are going to try a little better to meet the needs for that niche the next time around. Power Talk Toastmasters, Pillsbury Club, and Tri-Dynamics achieved the "Magnificent Seven". Allianz leads Division D – they have 3 new club memberships already. We have a low membership club, TCO Speakos, and they are having an open house Monday, September 19 at 12:00 PM. This will be a hybrid meeting. There will be an elevator speech workshop by Sandra Savage, so it's a must-attend for people who are interested in that. We have our area contests right around the corner, September 20 and October 1. We'll be seeing you soon!

Division E Director George Kane:

Based on the DCP report for September 7, only 12 of the 25 clubs met the DCP requirement to have 4 officers trained. More than half of the Clubs have already lost this point. Congratulations are due, however, to Contest Mastery and St. Paul Speakers for getting all 7 officers trained, as well as to Saturday Morning Live for having 6 trained. One development has, I hope, the potential to be an important membership building tool. I created a Meetup Group for Division E. Meetup is a social media platform for organizing in-person and virtual events for people with similar interests. I know of a few clubs that post their meeting notices on Meetup and have seen that it can be a useful membership-building tool. It provides a way that people looking for training in public speaking can search out and connect with groups that can provide it. I have had a Meetup Account for 12 years. It permits me to host five groups, and before this I only had two. I was able to create this St. Paul Toastmasters Clubs Meetup group at no additional cost to me. The roll-out has been a little slow, and I don't understand

why. So far, only King Boreas, Women with a Mission, and Mutual Voices have posted their meetings, but I have made Event Organizers for several more clubs. I'll be happy to follow the District's direction and expand the group beyond Division E. Of course, first I will need to chat with the Division Directors who get involved on how we will manage the group. When I report at our next meeting, I expect to have some success stories to report.

Executive Team Reports:

Public Relations Manager Report – Johnny Harbieh (delivered for Ashok Sunkivalli in his absence)

There are 2 goals in the PRM office this year:

- 1) To engage Toastmaster members with valuable content, making sure that we reach Distinguished District status
- 2) To engage the Gen Z members on a new social media platform

First I want to thank Bob Bazinet, Dr. Sherri, and Margie Peterson for their support on the PRM team for all the work they do with us. Our channels across social media have been growing. We've added TikTok and we are going to start to go after Gen Z, and we hope to engage that audience on TikTok. Our report includes officer training communication, newsletter, minor website enhancements, promoting the speech contests, and other fabulous events that are happening here in the district, such as our Story Sparks coming up and TLI awards dinner. All in all, we are happy to report that we've been getting on and doing the work across all our social. We're improving some of the processes from last year, and one thing we don't want to forget this year is to engage club members and celebrate their achievements.

(Johnny shared the PRM Manager PowerPoint presentation on screen and rapidly scrolled through it while delivering his report)

Finance Manager Report – Janet Osmundson

Janet had nothing further to report.

Admin Manager Report – Dave Degenhardt

I have been helping out behind the scenes planning the District Council meeting and helping out on the backend in a note taking capacity.

Trio Reports:

Club Growth Director's Report – Katy Hursh

Good morning fellow Toastmasters and honored guests. Thank you for joining us today. I am happy to report to you that in June we officially chartered our first club. This club, North Star Evaluators, is a virtual club based in Division A. It is the first Advanced club in Division A. Special thanks to all the charter members, sponsors and mentors for their dedication and leadership.

July and August have been months of team building by our Club Quality Chair Yves Prevost who is a past District Director. Yves has recruited and trained a team of Club sponsors and mentors ready to assist with new clubs. Our Retention Chair, Greg Scholz has also done similar and requested Club Coach volunteers to assist struggling clubs and build them back to strength. If you know of clubs in your Division or Area who want a coach please let us know. It is our intention to strengthen the current clubs. With that we have utilized Stephen Shaner, a past District Director and Regional Director and he has hosted 3 sessions on (inaudible) in September. By encouraging club officers and members to evaluate their clubs' strengths and weaknesses and how they are performing their roles is key to club quality. If our clubs are not following up with this, holding consistent meetings, or assigning weekly

roles, then clubs are not at their best. As leaders it is important to guide others to be consistent, keep showing up, and have a perspective. Your club will grow and perform at a quality level every time.

We are focusing on building corporate and community clubs. I believe it will make a difference to bring more new members into the District for a healthy balance. The Extension Chair Matt Villella has been working with interested corporations and individuals who want to start Toastmaster clubs. We plan to implement Speechcraft in current clubs and new clubs as another avenue to build membership.

Learning the role of Club Growth Director and hearing the heartbeat of our District through members and leadership has given us insight in how to best serve going forward. Making wise steps now will benefit our members and District long term. I appreciate everyone working together to make your home clubs quality clubs and make a stronger District overall. Your dedication and commitment are making a difference. Thank you.

Program Quality Director's Report – Ed Aylward

Many thanks to our talented District 106 Club Officer Training team. They have completed 9 training sessions with the result that between 55 and 60 percent of our District club officers have been trained. Thank you to all club officers who made the effort to become trained. Your commitment to a quality club meeting will have dividends in members' success meeting their communication and leadership goals. As we plan for round 2 of Club Officer Training, I am pleading for more trainers to assist with the training effort. I feel the pain of those of you who shared your opinion that 3 hours is too long for this training. Your training team is seeking ways to address that. We will attempt to create a couple of 30 minute self-guided modules on a platform which allows us to confirm who actually took the module. Each module would include a brief quiz. If Toastmasters International accepts, then that would allow the general session to be reduced to 2 hours. Another approach is to have a 90 minute session with information of interest to all club officers, followed by a menu of 3-5 additional elective 90 minute sessions club officers could choose to attend. The total time would still be 3 hours but it would be broken into two 90 minute sessions.

We are now entering contest season! Prepare to exaggerate with your best tall tales, and to challenge yourself to be concise in a 1-2 minute presentation at a Table Topics competition. Area contest success depends upon support from all members in that Areas' clubs. Volunteer! If you're not competing, make it possible for others to compete. Count ballots, serve as a sergeant-at-arms, or be a judge. Contest experience brings out the best in speech competitors, but it also brings out the best of who we are as Toastmasters working together in support of one another. Thank you for your commitment to quality Toastmasters experiences for all of our members and for helping continue our District's commitment to excellence.

District Director's Report – Gopu Shrestha

Fellow District Council Members, we have just finished one quarter of our program year, July to September, but it seems like we did a lot of work shared by my Key Executives. As you know, we are targeting Distinguished District this year, which means a quality club experience for all members. This year we have good chances of making this District a Distinguished District.

Reasons are:

- 1) There was a special provision adopted this year. We only have to add 3 net members gain to quality for Distinguished club – very easy.
- 2) Recently trained club officers' data shows a good signal to becoming Distinguished. All reports will be on our dashboards.
- 3) First time all 5 Division Directors are mentored by Past District Directors.
- 4) Almost all Area Directors have their mentors.
- 5) First time we have 3 Moment of Truth and Club Success Plan training conducted already. We will keep going upon request.
- 6) First time after pandemic we are hosting in person events like Story Spark, award distribution ceremony followed by dinner, and Spring Conference in Duluth May 12 and 13.

Now, we are in the process of:

- 1) Executing the District Success Plan, reviewing half yearly and if possible, quarterly.
- 2) Continuing working as a team, having weekly Trio meetings, biweekly 1:1 meetings with Division Directors.

As I shared my District Vision, 1) Family First, 2) Work in a Team, 3) Always ask for help. Again, we are not your supervisor, we are not your employer. We are here to grow ourselves. This way we will practice a teamwork and serve members better for quality experiences in their club. I am sure we will hit our goal of "Distinguished District Year 2022-23". Thank you very much District Council members. Please carry my vision to your clubs and serve the members the best.

New Business (District Director Gopu Shrestha): none

Announcements (District Director Gopu Shrestha):

This is the year we are coming out of the pandemic, so it will be a transitioning period from our virtual life to a new normal reality. Considering safety and following all government protocols, we have scheduled some events which I am going to announce soon. Before that, I would like to call for any declarations of candidacy for the next program year.

Ed Aylward declared his candidacy for District Director for 2023-2024.

Katy Hursh declared her candidacy for Program Quality Director for 2023-2024.

Fall Speech Contests will be virtual. We did a vote within our District Executive Committee. 88% voted for virtual fall contests. All fall contest dates are on the D106 calendar. Please check your Area and prepare your club contests. Contact your Area Director as well as Division Director. We are ready to help you. We need volunteers to help run the contests – please step up and help our Area Directors.

In person events:

- a. Story Spark Event (In Person) at Camp bar Restaurant, St. Paul September 15, 2022
- b. Award Ceremony followed by Dinner on September 29, 2022 (Hotel Crown Plaza, Plymouth), starts at 6 PM.
- c. Spring Conference May 12-13, Hotel Radisson, Duluth, MN

Diane Windingland corrected the dates of events a and b to September, not May.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.