



Call to Order:

District Director Edward Aylward called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM, CDT.

Reading of the District Mission:

The mission was read by Administration Manager Mel Fiecke-Ekensteen.

Adoption of the Agenda (District Director Edward Aylward):

District Director Edward Aylward presented the amendments to the meeting agenda. These are the amendments presented: following the review of the Meeting Agenda there will be approval of the May 6 Minutes and the Voting Procedure will be introduced by PDD DTM Dave Gibson. There were no objections to the agenda. The meeting agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of Minutes (District Director Edward Aylward):

The minutes of the May 6, 2023, District Council Meeting were distributed via email. The District Council Meeting minutes were approved, without any objections/corrections.

Meeting Appointments (District Director Edward Aylward):

Dave Hoffman was appointed as timer. Diane Windingland, DTM was appointed as Credential Chair. Dave Gibson, DTM was appointed as Election Buddy Chair. Michael Orr, DTM was appointed as Parliamentarian. Johnny Harbieh was appointed as Chat Monitor/Co-Host.

Explanation of Voting Procedure (Dave Gibson):

If there is a need to cast a ballot, this will be done via Election Buddy. All voting members will be receiving ballots via email. There will be an allotted time to cast and collect ballots.

Credentials Report (Credentials Committee Chair Diane Windingland):

District 106 has **105** clubs in good standing, with 2 votes per club held by the President and Vice President Education for **210** votes possible. One third or **70** club votes, are required for a quorum. We have **95** clubs registered today. The district does have a quorum. Additionally, there is **19** District Executive Committee Members registered, giving a total number of ballots of **114**. For a simple majority, it is 50% + 1 or **58**.

The credentials report was adopted.

Approval of District Leaders (District Director Edward Aylward):

The following are appointed district leaders: Administration Manager – Mel Fiecke-Ekensteen, Finance Manager – Janet Osmundson, Public Relations Manager – Ashok Sunkavalli, Club Extension Chair – Denise Sundquist, Logistics Manager – Michael Carlton, Club Quality Chair – Yves Prevost, Club Retention Chair – Dave Hoffman, District Leadership Committee Chair – Gopu Shrestha, Club Coach Chair – Anna Gaichas, Parliamentarian – Michael Orr, Area Directors, Division A, Area 1 –

Brian Walmark, Division A, Area 3 – Lesley Harding, Division A, Area 4 – Denise Sundquist, Division B, Area 11 – Susan Lau, Division B, Area 12 – Kathy Davis, Division B, Area 13 – Dannette Turner-Strickland, Division B, Area 14 – BJ Olsen, Division B, Area 15 – Tessa Lininger, Division C, Area 22 – Mary Kay States, Division C, Area 23 – George Kane, Division C, Area 24 – Seth Baetzold, Division D, Area 31 – Anil Prajapati, Division D, Area 32 – Hannah Smith, Division E, Area 41 – Christa Walter, Division E, Area 42 – Nicholas Niewinski, Division E, Area 43 – Colette Johnson, Division E, Area 44 – Kathleen Anglo, Division E, Area 45 – Nagaraju Nimmakayala. There were no objections, the appointed leaders/positions were approved.

District Budget (Finance Manager Janet Osmundson/District Director Edward Aylward):

This budget was reviewed by Toastmasters International World Headquarters Finance Team. Upon approval of the District Council, the budget will be submitted to World Headquarters as approved. Our 2023-2024 budget has increased approximately \$5000 from the previous program year. This reflects growth in district member numbers. This is the proposed budget – Education and Training \$3,900, Marketing outside Toastmasters \$3,563, Club Growth \$2,500, Public Relations \$2,360, Recognition \$6,325, Travel \$6,149, Lodging \$6,977, Food and Meals \$5,174, Speech Contest \$1,781, Administration \$800. Membership dues projected is \$35,633. District Director Edward Aylward discussed the reason for the overspending. It is due to the cost of the annual training for district directors, program quality directors and club growth directors. It was very expensive due to the venue set by Toastmasters International. Our district has a surplus of \$32,000 and because of that our budget may be approved with an overspend. The district will monitor spending throughout the year and cutback if the opportunity presents itself to do so. We will continue to add members so our revenue continues to increase and do what we can to offset that. Lastly, there was a question asked – is there money for food if we have a hybrid contest - the answer is yes. There were no objections, the 2023-2024 budget was adopted.

Audit Committee Report (Janet Osmundson on behalf of Jared Akerman):

The audit for the first half of the year was completed successfully. The audit team did not identify any discrepancies in the financials. The audit for the second half of the year is 90% complete. Once again, the audit team has not identified any discrepancies in the financials. The 2023-2024 audit committee report was adopted.

Division Director Reports:

Division A Director Dana Lamminmaki:

Division A highlights include:

- 38% of the club visits are completed.
- Riverview Club has five goals met and Westfort Club has three goals met to be becoming distinguished clubs.
- Paul Bunyan Club from Area 2 had a joint meeting with Focus Club, our prison club in Area 4.
- Discussions that are ongoing about an Area 1 open house with our regional 4 advisor.
- Area Contests and Division Contest are scheduled in October/November.
- Speechcraft beginning in late September in Thunder Bay.

Division B Director Brian Rice: (Edward Aylward on behalf of Brian Rice)

Division B has each of the Area Directors filled, and they are actively planning their speech competitions.

In Division C, there are four clubs over 20 members - White Bear Toastmasters, Shock, Rhythm and Talk, Minnesota Returned Peace Corp Volunteers and Wordsmiths. Many clubs have met the membership requirement in the new dues period. The \$45 renewal cost prior to August 15 was an incentive for clubs to get their dues in early. Officer Training: Northside Toastmasters, Wordsmiths, Free Thought, Shock, Rhythm and Talk and Promote the Possibilities achieved the Magnificent 7 Award. Many other clubs achieved four or more officers trained. Area Contests and Division Contest are scheduled: Area 23 and 25 contest will be on October 18, Area 22 and 24 contest will be on October 17 and will be planning a date for the Area 21 contest. Division C contest will be on November 1. The area contests are on Zoom and a possibility of a hybrid contest for the Division contest.

Division D Director Sarah Bateman: (Edward Aylward on behalf of Sarah Bateman)

Division D has opening for area directors. There will be a club that will cease and to recover the charter to create a corporate club of architects that wish to start a club. All the area contests will be hybrid and scheduled for the same day.

Division E Director Leo Smith: (Edward Aylward on behalf of Leo Smith)

Division E are actively planning their speech competitions.

Executive Team Reports:

Public Relations Manager Report - Ashok Sunkavalli

Firstly, I would like to thank my PRM team, Jason Sonnek, and Margie Peterson for doing phenomenal work. Jason has been working with the newsletter and Margie has been working with media podcasts. We are on social media: YouTube, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok. If you are part of any of these platforms, please promote and share with other club members to reach our members. We are working with the communication plan by working with the Trio leaders, put together a plan, and reviewed by the leaders. All the area and division contests have been added to the District calendar and the newsletter is in progress.

Finance Manager Report - Janet Osmundson

As District Finance Manager this year, I am tasked with the fiscal oversight and management of the District property. I work closely with the District Director, Program Quality Director, and Club Growth Director to ensure that the District is making cost effective decisions within policy that result in effective fiscal management.

Administration Manager Report – Mel Fiecke-Ekensteen

As Administration Manager, I am acquainting myself with my role including the responsibilities and duties. I have been preparing and dispersing minutes for District meetings.

Trio Reports:

Club Growth Director's Report - Matt Villella

The first 3 months of the Toastmaster year has been challenging but so rewarding. We have been notified by a few clubs that their charter will be handed in. We want to ensure that those who want to continue the Toastmaster journey will. Currently, we have three clubs that are in demo phase. As a team, we are doing cold calls to everyone and everywhere in the region that might benefit from Toastmasters. The team has been working hard and helping to strengthen the clubs that we have. We are happy to announce the Club Mentorship Program. We are reaching out to Distinguished Clubs from last year to help low member clubs. This program has seen four or five members of a club come

for three meetings and help with roles and give opportunities to have strong open houses and quality meetings. We are hoping to have 15 clubs mentored, which will have 30 clubs participating in total. There are opportunities for clubs to participate – there are prizes, such as a pizza party paid by the Club Growth Director. We already have clubs been identified to be participating in this program and has been identified in their area director reports.

We spent a few days in Thunder Bay creating a robust District Success Plan, this has been modified a few times and has been finally submitted to Toastmasters International. The marketing package and the communication plan have also been submitted. These are requirements for Toastmasters International and we are ahead of the deadline.

I have been attending as many club meetings as I possibly can as well as attending open houses. We have some incentives that will be implemented through the year, check out social media because that is where it will be posted. We are currently in the Smedley New Membership Program from Toastmasters International which ends on September 30, add five new members or reinstated members will get you a little something from Toastmasters International. There are D106 open house incentives. The District Director has set a goal of four open houses per club. If you have an open house and add at least two new members, reach out to me and you might be eligible for some great prizes, including a Zoom membership, Canva, Photo Editor or \$100 gift card from the TI store. Please reach to us so we know how we can help and keep track to give credit.

We are excited to announce that our Region 4 Advisor, David Woodcock will be doing a North Shore tour for open houses, promoting Toastmasters, and supporting our brand in the areas that does not really get attention. This will be happening October 24 – 28.

If you are having trouble having a quality meeting, reach out, we can figure out a plan. I am here for you as well as Ed and Katy are here for you, we want to help you and we want to attend meetings if we can. I encourage you to have strong meetings, perhaps look at Speechcraft and/or participate in the Club Mentorship Program. We have the resources to help you, let us help.

Program Quality Director's Report - Katy Hursh

Ninety percent of our area and division directors have completed seven hours of district officer training in the three sessions of training. The first session we discussed our Toastmaster birthdays, the second training Michael Carlton shared the importance of leveraging your team, and the last session Ben Smith presented successful speech contests. We are already at 30% of our district area visits being completed. Congratulations to our area directors. We still have until November to finish. Good job team!

The club officer training was led by our new district officer trainer, Beth Plamondon and she had scheduled 11 training sessions from June to August 31. We had club officers from all over the world attend. Our last session we had over 70 people in attendance. It was rewarding to observe our district training team as they facilitated our sessions and just watch them develop in the process was very exciting. We finished with 66.7% of our club officers trained, which was an increase from last year of 58%. The district trio also completed 16 hours of training at our conference in the Bahamas and the last portion of that week we went to the international conference. I highly recommend if you have not attended a Toastmasters Convention to do so. Our next one is in Anaheim, California on August 14 – 17.

Events coming up in our District: Award Ceremony at the Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on October 21, Holiday Party on December 2, Virtual TLI with guest

presenters in February, Spring Conference on May 3 – 4 at the Marriott in Brooklyn Park with a theme “Rise with Toastmasters”. We will be celebrating our four core values. Our club speech contests are underway with our clubs having contests now, our area contests in October and our division contests in November. The district leadership team is striving to assist all its’ members to have a successful experience as they develop into their highest potential.

District Director’s Report - Edward Aylward

Last year, our District was one of three President’s Distinguished Districts in the world. We can be distinguished anytime we put our minds to it, it is how we lay the groundwork, remove obstacles, and provide tools so that our club members are achieving their communication and leadership goals that we as areas, divisions, and districts become distinguished. In our District Success Plan, Matt, Katy and I have a stretch goal that we wish for this district to become Smedley Distinguished. It is the highest distinguished honor available in Toastmasters International for any district in the world.

Early in 2024, submission of educational awards will be automatically in Pathways and Club Central at the same time, it will be a one step process. There will be modifications coming to Pathways as well. There will be new, different content in Pathways shortly.

This is an amazing district; I am having such fun visiting and so much fun at our weekly meetings with Matt and Katy. It will be a great honor to have our Region Advisor here. As Katy pointed out, we will be having our Spring Conference in May in one of suburbs of the Twin Cities again. We need member numbers to be higher here as the cost in the Twin Cities is much higher than Duluth. We received a communication from Toastmasters International that which says, “You are eligible to have a Toastmasters International Board Officer attend your annual conference.” I understand that term means that we are eligible to have with us either 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President Elect, President, Immediate Past President, or Chief Officer of Toastmasters International. It will be a great privilege to have them at our conference.

New Business (District Director Edward Aylward): none

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm