



Minutes of District 6 Executive Council Meeting Saturday, April 30, 2016

District Director, Larry Marik, DTM, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, welcomed everyone, provided opening remarks and meeting ground rules.

Larry Marik, DTM, appointed the following meeting roles for today:

- Sandi Robarge has already been appointed as District Administration Manager and will perform those duties today
- Keith Hardy is appointed Credentials Chair
- Michael Orr is appointed Parliamentarian
- Deb Luu is appointed Head Logistics Manger
- Karolyn Hoard, Waheed Ayundai, and Greg Scholz (overseen by Keith Hardy - Credentials Chair) are appointed Ballot Counters
- Emily Hanson and Jane Rischmiller are appointed Timers
- Jill Nauman, Dennis Olsen, Patricia Doble are appointed Business Meeting Minutes Approval Committee

District Administration Manager, Sandi Robarge, DTM, read the District Mission.

Credentials Chair, Keith Hardy, DTM, PDG, provided the Credentials report.

The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:

- 271 active clubs with 2 votes per club equals 542 Total Votes
- 1/3 are needed for a quorum = 271 clubs = 91 votes required
- The total minimum votes needed is 182 votes (91 clubs x 2 votes each)
- Club votes accounted for 129 clubs = 247 votes
- District Officer votes = 49
- Total votes = 296

The District does have a quorum and the Credentials report was adopted.

District Administration Manager, Sandi Robarge, DTM, announced that the minutes of our 2015 Spring Convention Business Meeting and 2015 Fall Conference Business Meeting are currently posted at the hotel and are also available to members on the District 6 website

The Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 Business Meeting Minutes were approved and adopted as posted.

Finance Manager, Kimberlee Redington, DTM, announced that the budget has been posted in the lobby for everyone to review. The budget was submitted to Toastmasters International reviewed by World Headquarters in October 2015. The new service would be Paypal or square

The District 6 Budget was approved and adopted.

Kimberlee then announced credit cards were being looked into for the July TLI with possible credit card services for Square and Paypal.

Audit Committee Chair, Pat Croal, DTM, PDG, announced that the Auditor's Report is nearly complete for the first half of the year: July 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015. The Audit Report will be filed at TI once complete, per TI & IRS.

Realignment Chair, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, PDG, presented the Realignment of Clubs report. The Realignment report was adopted.

District Reformation Chair, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, PDG, presented the Reformation Committee recommendation to move forward with the motion to reform District 6 and present it to Toastmasters International Board of Directors at the International Convention in August 2016 or February 2017.

Discussion followed.

A motion was made to move forward with the District 6 reformation.

Nomination Committee Chair, Clinton Hunt, DTM, PDG, presented the Nominating Committee report.

Position	Name
District Director	Diane Windingland
Program Quality Director	Harold Osmundson
Club Growth Director	Nick Nelson Ben Smith
Division Directors	
A (Formerly International)	George Harnish
B (Formerly Northern)	Laura Zehner Miller
C (Formerly Frontier)	Jon Perry
D (Formerly Prairie)	-open-
E (Formerly Rivers)	-open- (floor) Josh Rensch
F (Formerly Southern)	-open- (floor) Ken Scribner
G (Formerly Western)	David Rasmussen
H (Formerly Metro)	Steve Compton
I (Formerly Eastern)	Tom Deyo
J (Formerly Central)	-open-

Additional nominations were requested:

- Brian Nelson nominated Josh Rensch for Division E Director
- Kenneth Scribner nominated himself for Division F Director
- Francene Niemiec nominated herself for Division J Director
- No nominations have been made for Division D at this time

The following candidates have been elected for the 2016-2017 District Year as unopposed offices:

- District Director – Diane Windingland
- Quality Program Director – Harold Osmundson
- Division A Director: George Harnish
- Division B Director: Laura Zehner Miller
- Division C Director: Jon Perry
- Division E Director: Josh Rensch
- Division F Director: Kenneth Scribner
- Division G Director: David Rasmussen
- Division H Director: Steve Compton
- Division I Director: Tom Deyo

- Division J Director: Francene Niemiec

District Director, Larry Marik, DTM, kicked off the 2 minute speeches for candidates of the contested office of Club Growth Director.

Reports by Senior Officers:

District Director, Larry Marik, DTM

- As of the end of September, District 6 Membership Payments totals were at 3,946 as of (10/11/2015). This is higher than the past 5 years where we reached 3,504 payments in 2010-2011.
- It is important that dues are paid for all our members and that all clubs retain a minimum of 8 members.
- The Trio was trained at the mid-year session in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on January 29 – 30, 2016.
- Our District Success Plan was completed & submitted to World Headquarters last year.
- All requirements have been met to participate in the Distinguished District Plan where our plan is to be Distinguished or better!
- The District Administrative Bylaws, Article XI: Committees, part D. Other Committees states the following: "Other committees may be appointed from time to time as may be deemed advisable by the district director or the district council. Such committees may include, among others, the following special committees: district program quality, district club growth, district public relations, Youth Leadership program, Speechcraft, administrative policies, awards, speakers bureau, district newsletter, and past district directors committee."

With that, the District Trio has decided to move forward with a committee called the "Past District Directors Advisory Committee". It will be open to all Past District Directors/District Governors of District 6 who are in good standing, as well as any Past District Directors/Governors from any other District who becomes a member of District 6 as long as they stay in good standing.

The Trio recommends the chair to be the immediate Past District Director. This aligns to how other Districts are handling this type of committee.

This committee would not carry votes. Instead by a simple majority, they would bring recommendations to the District Director and as necessary to the District Council.

The first project this committee would be working on it updating the District 6 guidelines to meet current Toastmasters Policies and protocols and presenting these changes to this District Council at a future meeting. (This would include adding guidelines around this new committee.)

Because we only have two months left of this Toastmasters Year, this committee will take in effect on July 1 under the direction of the newly elected District Director.

Program Quality Director, Diane Windingland, DTM

Distinguished Clubs:

I predict that District 6 will meet the distinguished clubs goal for distinguished district criteria this toastmaster year.

Our current number (as of 4/24) of distinguished clubs is 54 clubs, which is only 3 clubs behind the distinguished club count on the same date last year, when we achieved select distinguished status.

Meeting the membership requirement is a challenge for many clubs. As of 4/24, there were 85 clubs that have enough DCP points to be distinguished, but do not yet meet the membership criteria. But the year is not over!

In an effort to encourage early achievement toward DCP goals, a new incentive, the Outstanding Early Achievement Awards program was promoted, which included criteria for educational goals, training goals, and membership goals. One hundred fifteen (115) clubs achieved one or more awards. The achievements, however, were not substantially greater than last year, so this award is unlikely to be continued.

Educational Awards:

Our educational awards are tracking with previous years, with Competent Communicator completions running a bit higher than average. At the end of March, there were 334 Competent Communicator completions and 143 Advanced Communicator completions.

As of 4/24, there have been 63 Triple Crown Award achievers and 32 Distinguished Toastmaster Award recipients. Additionally 34 High Performance Leadership Projects have been completed.

Club Officer Training:

Club officer training was extended this year to 2.5 hours in the fall and 1.5 hours in the winter. The training time was extended in an effort to increase the quality of training and to be more in line with Toastmasters International guidelines of 5-8 hours for club officer training. For those who attended training, the feedback was largely positive. However, there was pushback on the extended time, especially from corporate clubs, and a 4-5% drop in each round in the number of clubs achieving 4 officers trained. Still, the number of clubs with 4 or more officers trained was a very good 82% for the first round and 77% for the second round. This year we also held Divisional TLIs (Toastmaster Leadership Institutes) instead of a single district-wide TLI. More than 600 members attended Divisional TLIs, far out-pacing the usual attendance at a District Winter TLI.

Moments of Truth Incentive:

A new club quality initiative this year was the Moments of Truth Incentive, which encouraged clubs to complete a Moments of Truth program and to report on the results and action plans. Thirty-nine (39) clubs submitted reports and received a \$25 gift certificate. This initiative and the Moments of Truth program empowered clubs to make actionable plans for improvement. As the Revitalized Education Program is likely to require the Moments of Truth as part of the Distinguished Club Program, this incentive is likely to be continued next year.

Club Growth Director, Harold Osmundson, DTM

District 6 is doing well in terms of club and membership growth. There are challenges, and the next 2 months will be challenging, but there is a path for District 6 to be a Distinguished District.

District 6 started the 2015-2016 year with 289 paid clubs. Through April 29th, there are 271 paid clubs, with approximately 15 clubs working to reach 8 paid members and remain in good standing. Thus far, 8 clubs have been lost, and these have been offset by 8 new clubs.

There are enough prospective clubs in the pipeline to reach the goal of 298 paid clubs by June 30th. With strong efforts to charter these clubs, and to assist existing clubs in reaching 8 paid members, District 6 can reach 298 paid clubs before the end of the program year. The opportunity is there, but it'll take effort.

In terms of membership payments, District 6 is approximately 1,000 payments away from its goal of 11,319 payments needed by June 30th. We can increase membership by using education-based marketing and focusing on individuals with the strongest need for Toastmasters. Workshops on public speaking and leadership attract our target audience and offer value first. Further, client-facing professionals, engineers, and English language learners (ELL/ESL) have shown a strong interest in Toastmasters this year. We have so many people to serve.

Growth is challenging, but there's growth in every challenge. I appreciate the efforts of every member, leader, and club to continue growing this Toastmasters program year.

Division Reports

Division A Director, Nick Nelson:

- Club base of 13, currently at 12 (loss of advanced club with all dual members, due to dues increase), 2 new clubs expected to charter before the end of the year.
- 2 clubs distinguished or better with several others expected by end of year
- Clubs with 4+ officers trained - round 1: 100%, round 2: 92%
- All club visits submitted on time (round 2 was already all done as of mid-April for the whole division)

Division B Director, Cheryl Evans, DTM:

Club base: 33 - one of these actually ceased holding meetings nearly a year ago but has only been suspended by TI 3/31/16.

Current paid clubs: 29 - the other two ([from base] are probable losses as they are non-responsive to AD outreach attempts) are corporate clubs, one of which has experienced significant business changes over the past year.

One club is below 8 members.

Five Div. B clubs have club coaches. Multiple open houses and other membership-building events have been/are in the process of being held.

One new club, The Leaders' Club, was chartered 3/22/16

Distinguished clubs: 6

Distinguished clubs (if membership was not an issue): 15

Club membership strength continues to be the greatest challenge in Division B.

Division C Director, Dave Gibson, DTM, presented by Janet Osmundson:

Good morning fellow Toastmasters.

I wish I could be with you there this morning. If I was, I would tell you about what a great year we have had in Division C. It has really been a year of amazing discoveries for me and my team.

I believed coming into this year that I would learn a lot about leadership from the leaders before me, and the leaders from the other Divisions, and of course our Trio. While I certainly benefited from this group, I was awestruck how much I had to learn from the leadership within the Division itself.

I believe that the other Division Directors are tired of hearing me tell them that I have been blessed with the greatest team of Area Directors in the District. I have learned so much from their tireless efforts. I have learned so much about the value of teamwork this year watching them work together to support the clubs in the Division.

I believe many of the clubs in Division C along with their Directors support will finish this year stronger than they started. I have seen so many great leaders throughout the clubs in the Division.

We believe that we will see several more new clubs before the year is finished. We have seen a club come back from the ashes. We have seen new clubs form, and a few more in incubus. Every new member to the Division brings new energy and vitality.

We believe that this Division will finish Distinguished this year. We believe in the value of Toastmasters. We believe in the value of leaders investing in leaders -- to make leaders stronger.

We believe when leaders get stronger everybody wins.

I wish I could be with you this morning, but I know that the Division is in good hands.

Thank you.

Division D Director, Connie Mayta:

-Progress toward being a distinguished division (estimated net club count compared to base, estimated percent of clubs distinguished)

-New clubs

-A Success Story/highlight that features an example of a Toastmaster Value (Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence)

D I V I S I O N D – Dynamite Prairie Division

WHERE WE'VE BEEN * PRESENT * WHERE WE'RE GOING

Oh the places we have been! : Starting our Boundaries & Report Card

N Hutch & Watertown S Fairmont Activity E Eden Prairie /Chanhassen W Marshall

In the prairie, our 7 Awesome Area Directors worked diligently on our DCP's through the year. Everyone has hung on, some to dear life, some to new life (AD first time parent).

7 Areas / 29 clubs

Training over 90% of club officers

3 Areas, 3 clubs Distinguished so far with estimate of 50% for completing, based on Area Directors reports or having goals already, just needing to finishing strong in membership growth.

Where we are now:

Recognition of Division Helpers to offset the geographic challenges. Special thanks to Jane Rischmiller, Deb Luu, and Sarah Collins.

Where we're going:

New Clubs Story - People Chartering at Maverick Speakers at MSU - Going like you cannot fail, with all the energy ya got. Pizza party with a veteran speaker and veteran Toastmasters from Mankato Happy Chef. Awe! They're awesome!

Division E Director, Jennifer Hamlin, DTM:

Division E update for District 6 Business Meeting as presented by Susan Rajbhandari on behalf of Jennifer Hamlin

Club Count = 27; net loss of 1 club

- Began the Toastmaster year with 28 clubs
- Two clubs have not paid renewal dues quite yet
- 2 community clubs are in the works, but have not chartered
 - Northfield Community Toastmasters
 - King of Kings group in Woodbury

- 1 new corporate club

New Club in Area 45

- Flyin' Toasters Club at UTC Aerospace in Burnsville
- Chartered October 1, 2015
- Only 1 DCP goal away from Distinguished Club Status

Distinguished Club Performance

- 21% of clubs in Division E are already Distinguished
- 31% of clubs are 3 or less achievements away from Distinguished status
 - An achievement = 1 DCP goal or gaining 1 new member
 - Example – 2 members + 1 DCP goal OR 1 member + 2 DCP goal
 - Some clubs just need 1 member or just 1 DCP goal
 - Distinguished status for these clubs is within reach during the remaining 9 weeks of our TM year
- Over half of the Division E clubs are Distinguished or nearly Distinguished

Division F Director, Jean Pearson, DTM:

Division F is doing great. In the first round we trained 19 out of 20 clubs with 4 or more officers trained. The second round we had 20 out of 20 clubs with 4 or more officers trained. We had 9 clubs that were 7 out of 7 for both rounds of officers trained. The first officer training in December was such a great success that we did not have as great of showing at the January TLI. The three Area Directors who put that training on did a fantastic job. With the great effort of the club officers and Area Directors we are on target to finish strong. It has been a great year. 1 new club was added in March.

I had 5 great Area Directors and 4 of them are present today.

Division G Director, Gayle Zorad:

Division G consists of 6 Areas. These Areas range in size from 4 to 7 clubs for a total of 32 clubs and 1,160 members.

28 Out of 32 clubs have paid dues and the remaining clubs are expected to pay prior to June 30th. (A little late, but we should be able to maintain these clubs.)

New Club: Buffalo Wild Wings (Blazin' Toasters) chartered in Oct. 2015 with 20 members.

2 Low member clubs on the brink of shutting down have been rejuvenated: Money Talks and SuperValued Speakers. SuperValued Speakers is expected to be Distinguished this year for the first time in SEVERAL years. Thanks to Dru Jorgensen, Pamela Halldorson and Monte Jefson.

All 6 Area Directors have completed at least 1 HPL with 4 Area Directors completing 2 HPLs.

Division G has trained at least 90% of its' Club Officers with higher than expected turnouts of 86, 104 and 58. Although the mini-TLIs were a LOT of additional work for the ADs and myself, we were able to attract a substantial increase in Officers to be trained.

A Division is only as good as its' ADs. The success of Division G is a direct result of these ADs hard work:

- Pamela Halldorson, Area 65
- Phil Rodgers, Area 62
- Carolyn Boganey, Area 61
- Patrice Pariseau, Area 63
- Chris Hannon, Area 64
- Brian Parsons, Area 66

Division H Director, Eric Johnson:

Division H stood for Happy this year, specifically "Happy Hour"! My ADs were creative in finding fun locations to incorporate networking as part of our Fall Officer Training.

My ADs were fantastic at coming together to support each other for the Fall mini TLI and Speech Contests.

Membership payments totaled over 1650 as of yesterday morning for the 40 clubs in Division H. 1 club is yet to reach paid-in status of 8 members, but we are hopeful that we will get them there.

We have 11 Distinguished Clubs, 9 of which are Select Distinguished. An additional 4 clubs would be distinguished with 2 to 3 more members. Other Clubs are in striking range with a combination of new members and an additional education award.

We have 3 Distinguished Areas based on membership and education awards so far.

We are within striking range of being a Distinguished Division!

Division I Director, Steve Crooks:

Division I...the numbers are available online, so I would like to use this time to acknowledge the work of the Area Directors". I relied heavily on the team of Tom Deyo, Jim Carlson, Samar Upadyhah, Carolyn Caba, Kim Windingland, and Kirby Johnson.

The Division still has significant ground to cover at the time of the spring conference. We are determined to achieve Distinguished status by year-end.

Division J Director, Sue Ann Rawlins:

Division J has 33 clubs including our newest club - WiProse in Area 93. They are a very strong club already and are bound to be distinguished next year.

I've had a great team of Area Directors for Division J this year. Everyone worked together on officer training and area speech contests with real team spirit.

As of now, we have 8 Distinguished clubs. But my Area Directors are working to help their clubs achieve their goals for the Toastmaster year, so Division J is sure to be distinguished.

Announcement of Reformation results based on ballots:

- Total votes cast = 300
- Spoiled Ballots = 0
- Majority (50% +1) = 151
- The results of the Ballots show 281 of votes for Yes
- The results of the Ballots show 19 of votes for No

The District has voted to move forward with reformation and the results of this vote will be presented to the Toastmasters International Board of Directors for approval (**when**). Following the results of this, an announcement will be sent electronically to the clubs.

Announcement of Club Growth Director results based on ballots:

- Total votes cast = 293
- Spoiled Ballots = 4
- Majority (50% +1) = 148
- Votes for Nick Nelson = 123
- Votes for Ben Smith = 170

The 2016-2017 Club Growth Director is Ben Smith, DTM

Installation of District Offices:

Immediate Past District Governor, Clinton Hunt, DTM, installed all the new District Officers.

New Business:

The chair recognized George Deliduka, DTM, PDG, and voting member of Sunrisers Toastmasters Club # 2140. George Deliduka moved that the District Executive Committee petition Toastmasters International to investigate and accept District Six as a candidate to host a future Toastmasters International Convention in the Twin Cities.

Larry Marik stated that TI has been approached in the past. They make their selections based on hotels and venues.

Announcements:

The next District Council meeting for District 6 will be held on November 12, 2016 during the Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn in Duluth, Minnesota.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Distribution: Executive Council