

District 6 Toastmasters  
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council  
Spring Conference  
Plymouth, Minnesota  
May 6, 2017

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM,** called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM

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

**Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, PDD,** announced that there was a quorum.

The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:

Eligible Clubs	279
Eligible Clubs x 2	558
Quorum = Eligible Club Votes * 1/3 = 200	186
Total Club Votes Accredited	208
Eligible Delegates at large present	38
Total Possible Votes	246
Majority of all possible votes	124
2/3 of all possible votes	164

The Credentials report was adopted.

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM,** provided ground rules for the business meeting, called for adoption of the agenda, appointed Anne Groetsch, Jill Nauman, and Stephen Shaner as tellers, Tosin Agboola and Erik Biever as timers, and Pamela Halldorson, Paul Lubinski, and Kent Hawks as the minutes review committee meeting minute approvers for this meeting.

**District Administration Manager, Sandi Robarge, DTM,** announced that the Minutes of our 2016 Spring Convention and Fall 2016 Conference Business Meetings have been available to members on the Business meeting page of the District 6 website since late February of this year. They are also posted in the lobby for those that may not have access to the district website or have not been able to see the minutes as posted at the credentials desk. We also have a few copies available. Copies may be requested from me.

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM:**

Called for approval of the 2016 Spring and Fall minutes, which were approved and will be published as posted.

Confirmed appointment of Liz Moore as Division D Director, the appointed Division D director for the current Toastmaster year.

**Leadership Committee Chair, Larry Marik, DTM, IPDD:**

The District 6 Leadership Committee met and did interviews with potential candidates in January and March. The committee submits the following candidates for office in 2017-2018.

Multiple candidates in the same position were announced alphabetically by last name.

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
District Director	Harold Osmundson
Program Quality Director (North)	Ben Smith
Program Quality Director (South)	Jean Pearson
Club Growth Director (North)	Colbert Fong Dave Gibson Karolyn Hoard Kimberlee Redington
Club Growth Director (South)	Ravi Rai
<b><u>Division Directors</u></b>	
Division A	Matt Villella
Division B	Michael Carlton
Division C	Gopu Shrestha
Division D	Suzanne Ryan
Division E	Susan Rajbhandari
Division F	John Riebow
Division G	John Vu
Division H	Ge Lee
Division I	Darek Prochaska
Division J	Jeni Smith

I would like to state a special thanks to our committee members: Julie Bane, Helen Grothe, Keith Hardy, Brian Hinton, Dru Jorgensen, Bernardine Krupka, Nick Nelson, Sharon Rollefson, Joan Watson, and Gayle Zorad.

This ends my report.

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM**, opened nominations for each position and then opened nominations from the floor.

The Administration Manager was instructed to submit one ballot for the uncontested positions of District Director, Program Quality Director-North, Program Quality Director-South, and Club Growth Director-South.

Club Growth Director-North candidates were each given an opportunity to speak. Colbert Fong, Dave Gibson, Karolyn Hoard, and Kimberlee Redington each presented a 2-minute campaign speech.

**Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, PDD**, provided balloting instructions for this vote, and then ballots were collected.

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM**, voting closed and ballot counters were excused.

#### **District Leader Reports:**

- District Director Report, Diane Windingland, DTM:  
56 days.

That's how much time is left in this Toastmaster year. Fifty-six days until June 30th.

At the District level, there are 3 metrics measured on June 30th: Net Clubs, Membership Payments, and Distinguished clubs. Typically, the challenging metrics are net clubs and membership payments. Right now, we are lagging in both. We anticipate a club loss of 9 clubs this year, although there are still a few more at risk. With those losses, and the addition of the 5 clubs chartered so far, we still would need an additional 13 clubs chartered by the end of June, in the next 56 days, in order to be a distinguished district. This is still possible. Last year, 10 clubs were chartered June alone. Will you step up and start a club this year, bringing the Toastmaster program to a community or an organization that is underserved?

This is not a rhetorical question. Raise your hand if you believe you could start a club yet this year. You have 56 days!

Membership is perhaps an even more challenging goal. Right now, we are about 1600 membership payments short of distinguished. We can reach this goal with charter club members and new, dual and reinstated members. On average, each club would need to add 4-5 members. Imagine how your club could be revitalized with 4-5 additional members or more. This is still possible. Last year, the district, in an amazing year-end push, added 475 members in the just last 9 days of the Toastmaster Year. Will you empower more people to develop communication and

leadership skills, to approach life with more confidence? Will you personally invite guests to your club at each remaining meeting this year?

Again, this is not a rhetorical question. Raise your hand if you will personally invite guests to your club at each remaining meeting. You have 56 days.

June 30th is 8 weeks, 56 days away. A lot can yet be achieved in a short time. Take this year's Super Bowl as an example. If the New England Patriots could erase the Atlanta Falcon's 25 point lead with only 18 minutes left in the game, we certainly can make astounding progress in 56 days.

What if they had had a defeatist attitude? . . . Easy to do when the odds are against you. But, great things are accomplished by people who never give up. Even if they don't hit the goal, they are better off than if they hadn't tried.

Now is the time to charter new clubs. Now is the time to build membership in your clubs. Now is the time to win personally by building your communication and leadership skills while serving others. You have 56 days. Fifty-six fabulous days!

- Program Quality Director Report, Harold Osmundson, DTM:

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of each club officer to lead his/her club and maintain high standards so members receive strong value for their membership. Further, I appreciate that so many attend the district's business meeting to elect district leaders. It shows our strength as a community.

This report will be light on numbers, and I'll share just one number. Currently, approximately 20% of clubs in District 6 have met the Distinguished Club standards that reflect education achievement and membership strength. These clubs, their leaders and members, deserve recognition for their efforts to maintain high standards and a healthy club environment for members.

While it's great to see these clubs succeed, and we know more will follow in the remaining months of the 2016-2017 program year, what about the other 80% of clubs, their leaders and members? What can we do to help those leaders be successful in the final months of their term?

Every club leader wants to serve successfully in his/her role, and each wants the best for the club and its members. Yet, sometimes leaders don't know how to be successful, or they need some help, guidance, and encouragement. We owe it to these fellow members to assist them.

Every member of our district team wants each club leader to be successful. Our success as a district and collection of clubs can only be the result of the success of leaders and members. We are, and have always been, in this together. This is a team sport.

In the remaining days of this program year, I'll reach out to club and district leaders to offer whatever I can to help club leaders be successful. I ask that each district leader reach out to those leaders he/she serves, and offer assistance to help each leader finish the year strong.

Let's work as a supportive team that wants nothing more than to see each individual succeed and reach their goals. In doing that, we'll show our strength and value as an organization and community.

Thanks to each member, club officer, and district officer for being a part of this amazing and supportive organization.

- Club Growth Director Report, Ben Smith, DTM:

Hello District 6!

My report could focus on the numbers:

- Known loss of 9 clubs

- 5 clubs started this year

- Over 1000 membership payments short of Distinguished status

But that wouldn't tell you my "why", as Simon Sinek likes to say. So I'll start with a story.

My friend Johnny planted a tree. He watched that tree grow. It was beautiful. It created shade. It created oxygen. But just growing, just being beautiful, creating shade, and creating oxygen didn't fulfill this tree's purpose. This tree was an apple tree. This tree's purpose was to create fruit. After a period of time, Johnny's tree finally fulfilled its purpose, it produced apples. Johnny went out and picked the apples, ate the apples, enjoyed the fruit of that tree.

How many of you have grown in Toastmasters? But in my opinion, our growth is only a part of the TM program. But you may ask, Ben, how can we produce fruit? And my answer is, share your experience in TM. Tell people you have more confidence, are a better presenter, and a better leader because of your experiences in TM. Then invite them to visit your club with you. Look around you to see if you can find an organization where TM might be a fit, and let's work together to build a club there.

My WHY is sharing my experience in TM and encouraging others to experience TM for themselves.

Will you share your experience in TM with others? Will you invite them to visit your club with you? Will you look around to see where new clubs can be built?

Will you be productive with me?

- Public Relations Manager Report, Dan Grundtner, DTM:

We have had a busy year in Public Relations, with events, social media, print media, contests and the Website Excellence Program.

The booth and banners got a work out this year going out over 40 times. It will be used three more times in the next 10 days. Annette Peterson kept track and kept them in motion. Thank you Annette.

Tweets and Instagrams have been flying across the internet from our Social Media chair, Julie Bane. She was scouring the Toastmasters International website for items to send to prospective Toastmasters. I fed her some press releases and YouTube links to include in her weekly postings. Thank you Julie.

We held a contest for Public Relations; it was chaired by Colbert Fong, and his assistant, Jeni Smith, thank you Colbert and Jeni. We also started the Website Excellence Program for the first time this year. It was developed and run by Ravi Rai. 28 clubs took advantage of the WEP to improve their clubs website. Thank you, Ravi.

I set for a goal of getting 25% of clubs in the District to participate in any of the WEP or a PR contest. With a base of about 300 clubs, 25% would be 75 clubs. We got half way there with 37 clubs participating in one of the five categories. The 37 clubs are listed on the PR table in the lobby. Which ones won will be announced at the luncheon this afternoon. One club, only one club, entered all five categories. Two clubs entered four of the five. You will also find out who they are at the luncheon along with the winners.

None of our clubs will survive without new members. Public Relations is an integral part of getting visitors to our clubs. In the May newsletter, coming out a week from next Tuesday, I will be writing about using your CL manual to conduct a PR campaign. I came to realize, when I was asked about it, there are no instructions in the CL manual for running a membership or a PR campaign. I will tackle that topic, from the Public Relations aspect, in the newsletter. Look for it and keep encouraging your members open their newsletter and read it too.

- Immediate Past District Director Report, Larry Marik, DTM, IPDD:

This year was the formation of the Past District Director Advisory Committee.

The committee met throughout the year breaking out into two subcommittees.

The first subcommittee reviewed the forms for the Toastmaster of the Year within our District. After review, the committee led by Diane Windingland recommended to keep the forms provided by Toastmasters International. Committee members consisted of Mary Swanson and Keith Hardy.

The second subcommittee was to review the District 6 Guidelines (also known as District Procedures). The subcommittee revised the guidelines making recommendations throughout the document and updating officer titles to match Toastmasters International. These guidelines were reviewed by the overall advisory committee and were submitted to the Trio for final review. The guidelines will be reviewed and voted on approval at the next District Executive Committee meeting on May 20th. This subcommittee was led by Stephen Shaner and consisted of Joan Watson, Mary Swanson and myself.

This ends my report.

**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 September 2016.

The District Budget Report was approved and adopted.

**2016-2017 District 6 Audit Committee Member, Brian Hinton, DTM**, presented the audit for the first half of the Toastmasters year beginning July 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016. The committee found no irregularities during their review. However, they do have one suggestion that they would like the District 6 Leadership to adopt.

During the review, they noticed a potential problem that could arise in the future, how mileage reimbursements are addressed. The audit committee proposes the District 6 Leadership consider a policy that more accurately accounts for mileage, such as using "Google Maps" or other products. We feel this will provide the accountability needed as well as being a fair to all parties, the person requesting reimbursement and the person responsible for approving the reimbursement.

The audit committee would like to thank the District 6 Leadership Team for their responsible use of the District's finances.

Audit Committee Members:

Terry Ragan, DTM – District 6 Audit Chair, 2016-2017

Jean Pearson, DTM – Audit Committee Member

Brian Hinton, DTM – Audit Committee Member

The auditor's report was approved and adopted.

**Reformation Chair, Joan Watson, DTM, PDD, PID,** provided an update on the District 6 reformation initiative.

**Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, PDD,** announced the ballot results:

<b>Unopposed Director Results</b>	
Harold Osmundson	District Director
Ben Smith	Program Quality Director North
Jean Pearson	Program Quality Director South
Ravi Rai	Club Growth Director South

<b>Unopposed Division Director Results</b>	
Matt Villella	Division A Director
Michael Carlton	Division B Director
Gopu Shrestha	Division C Director
Suzanne Ryan	Division D Director
Susan Rajbhandari	Division E Director
John Vu	Division G Director
Ge Lee	Division H Director
Darek Prochaska	Division I Director
Jeni Smith	Division J Director

### **District 6 Opposed Director Election Results**

<b>Club Growth Director –North Results Round 1</b>	
Colbert Fong **	28
Dave Gibson	103
Karolyn Hoard	55
Kimberlee Redington	60
Total Votes Cast	246
(Spoiled Ballots)	0
Majority of Votes Cast	124

**\*\* No candidate received a majority of Votes Cast. The recipient of the lowest number of votes (Colbert Fong) was eliminated from Round 2 of voting.**

**Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, PDD,** provided balloting instructions for round 2 voting, and then ballots were collected.

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM,** voting closed and ballot counters were excused.



**Alignment Chair, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, PDD,** provided a presentation of the realignment of clubs.

The Alignment committee met to review District 6 club locations; moves, suspended and new clubs, following Toastmasters International Protocol 7.0 District Structure club assignment requirements.



Protocol 7.0\_District  
Structure.docx

In summary we propose 19 clubs to be realigned for 2017-18 Toastmasters year. A copy of the proposed changes has been on the d6tm.org website since April 26. Hard copies have been posted for review during the Spring Convention.

- 6 in Division B
- 1 in Division C
- 4 in Division D
- 2 in Division E
- 4 in Division H
- 2 in Division J
- No proposed changes for Divisions A, F, G, and I

Committee consisted of Heather Hegi, Cartographer and Dru Jorgensen, DTM PDD Chair. The Alignment Committee proposes all changes as noted, plus to allow District Executive Committee to finalize changes for new and existing club's changes occurring through June 30th. The committee recommends approval of all changes as stated.



District 6 Realignment  
2017-18 TM Year\_Upd



District 6 Realignment  
2017-18 TM Year\_Upd

The realignment of clubs was approved and adopted as presented.

*-- 10 minute break --*

**Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, PDD,** announced the ballot results:

<b>Club Growth Director –North Results Round 2</b>	
<b>Dave Gibson + + +</b>	<b>120</b>
Karolyn Hoard	50
Kimberlee Redington	63

Total Votes Cast	233
(Spoiled Ballots)	0
Majority of Votes Cast	116

**+++ Dave Gibson received a majority of Votes Cast. He was elected to the position of Club Growth Director North**

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM**, opened floor nominations for the position of Division Director A-J.

- Nhien Chau nominated Ken Scribner for Division F Director
- Jean Pearson nominated Dave Pearson for Division F Director

There are 3 candidates for Division F Director

- John Riebow
- Ken Scribner
- Dave Pearson

The Administration Manger was instructed to submit one ballot for the uncontested positions of Division Director A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, and J.

Division F Director Candidates were each given an opportunity to speak. Dave Pearson and Ken Scribner each presented a 2-minute campaign speech. John Riebow was not present.

**Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, PDD**, provided balloting instructions for the Division F Director vote, and then ballots were collected.

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM**, voting closed and ballot counters were excused.

<b>Division F Director Results</b>	
<b>Dave Pearson +++</b>	<b>150</b>
John Riebow	21
Ken Scribner	58
Total Votes Cast	229
(Spoiled Ballots)	0
Majority of Votes Cast	114

**District Director, Diane Windingland, DTM**, proposed the installation of the new officer positions be moved to this evening's dinner. There were no objections. Immediate Past District Director, Larry Marik, DTM, will install the new District officers at the Spring Conference dinner.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Announcements:** Karolyn Hoard thanked the voters and offered help to Dave Gibson in his upcoming role. She also declared her candidacy for Club Growth Director-North for the 2018-2019 Toastmasters year.

**Upcoming Dates:**

The next District Council Meeting for District 6 will be held on November 4, 2017 during the Fall Conference at the DoubleTree Hotel, 150 S Broadway, Rochester, Minnesota.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM (CST) by Diane Windingland.