

District 6 Toastmasters  
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council  
Fall Conference  
October 26, 2013

District Governor, Sharon Rollefson, DTM, called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

Inspirational Message was given by Jennifer Clace.

Nancy Hobbs, DTM, read the District Mission

Sharon Rollefson welcomed everybody and gave introductory remarks.

Credentials Chair, Sally Muroski, DTM, announced the following:

- The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:
- 270 Active Clubs
- There are two votes per club (540)
- 1/3 are needed for a quorum = 179 is required for a quorum
- Votes accounted for: Club votes = 102 and District Officers = 17
- Total votes = 119
- We do not have a quorum
- The credentials report was adopted.

With the lack of a quorum, there will be no new business conducted. We will only present the district reports and budget. There were no objections to follow through with this format. This format was adopted. The adoption of the meeting stand rules and appointment of a teller is not needed since there is no quorum. The adoption of the agenda was adopted with no objections.

Sharon Rollefson explained the business meeting standing rules. The business meeting standing rules as stated on the agenda were voted on and adopted.

Sharon Rollefson presented the agenda. The agenda as presented was voted on and adopted.

Sharon Rollefson appointed Jim Kickul as the Timer. There were no objections.

District Secretary, Nancy Hobbs, DTM, announced that the minutes from the 2013 Spring Conference Business have been posted at the hotel, and will be posted to the District 6 website. The 2013 Spring Conference Business meeting were stated as no corrections.

Auditor, Medard Kaisershot, DTM, announced as of this time, there is nothing to report. The first audit for the first half of the fiscal year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> is due in February.

District Treasurer, Eric Mcbrayer, announced that the treasurer's report has been on display at the hotel for everyone to review. As of today, the district has approximately \$75,000 in cash assets. This is held in three accounts: a checking account and savings account at Wells Fargo, and a reserve account held at Toastmasters international. Toastmasters International will deposit the district portion

of membership dues as it's received into the reserve account. This is available to us upon request of the District Governor and myself. We are required to keep amount equal to 25% of the estimated revenue in that account by year end. That figure is approximately \$22,000.

Per the Toastmasters International Bylaws, the funds belong to Toastmasters International, not the district. We are allowed the use of these funds to further the mission of Toastmasters International and the district. They tell us what they estimate we'll receive on a monthly basis. We must budget that, plus the revenue we receive from event registration and any fundraisers we host. The rules set by Toastmasters limit how much we can spend in different areas.

Twice annually, our finances are audited. If we don't pass these audits, and meet budget requirements, then Toastmasters International will freeze our accounts. They will remain frozen until we correct the issues and pass the audit. In order to pass the audit we must keep our expenses within the limits set by TM, and follow the rules for Toastmasters International. Thankfully, the staff at world headquarters will help us do that before frozen accounts become an issue.

I'm proud to say that we have completed the budget and submitted it to World Headquarters for approval five days before the deadline. We only had a couple of suggestions from the staff accountants at TI, and were able to correct and return it on time. The 2013-2014 budget has been approved. The budget summary and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter treasurer's report have been posted prior to this meeting for your viewing. This is the first step in managing our finances. The next step is submitting our quarterly reports and our mid-year report for auditing.

We have 2 large goals for the budget this year. The first budgetary goal is marketing the Toastmasters brand to the general public and prospective members. To do this, we'll focus on large billboard marketing campaign. We had success with this last year using both static and digital billboards. We've decided that the static billboards are the better option. They allow longer display periods, and more consistent viewing by the public. The cost of these is more effective than the digital billboards.

The second budgetary focus is on member retention. Our Public Relations Officer is working on a campaign to keep members informed of what is happening in the District. He is also working on making sure that District 6 is recognized both inside and outside of the Toastmasters organization.

To further both of these goals we have allocated much of our expected revenue to the marketing team, and will make adjustments as the need arises. We fully intend to make sure that Division and Area Governors have the tools and resources necessary to do what it needed for their respective clubs. In order to do that, we have allocated funding to training and education.

I have a couple of things to note. The first is that starting September 12, the mileage reimbursement rate increased from 51 cents per mile to 56 cents per mile. This keeps us in line with the IRS and TI's increase.

The second is there are limits on the mileage and administrative costs that Area and Division Governors may request reimbursement for. These limits were spelled out to the governors in a previous training session. The purpose of this is to limit unnecessary and extravagant expenses.

We have also budgeted so that the leadership will have access to funds during the time the district reserve account at TI is not available next July.

I request that is be approved as read, and the budget be approved as posted. The report was approved.

## Officers Reports:

### District Report was given by District 6 Governor, Sharon Rollefson, DTM

Our District Membership is 10,954

Our number of current Members to date is 4,604

91% of our Membership Dues are paid

Our Paid Clubs Base 290 to date 270

It is important that dues are paid for all our members

We have turned in the Club Alignment to Toastmasters International

We have held Training for Area & Division Governors 84% have been trained

The Trio was trained by our Regional Advisor

Our District Success Plan was completed and turned in on-time.

Our District Budget was completed and turned in on-time.

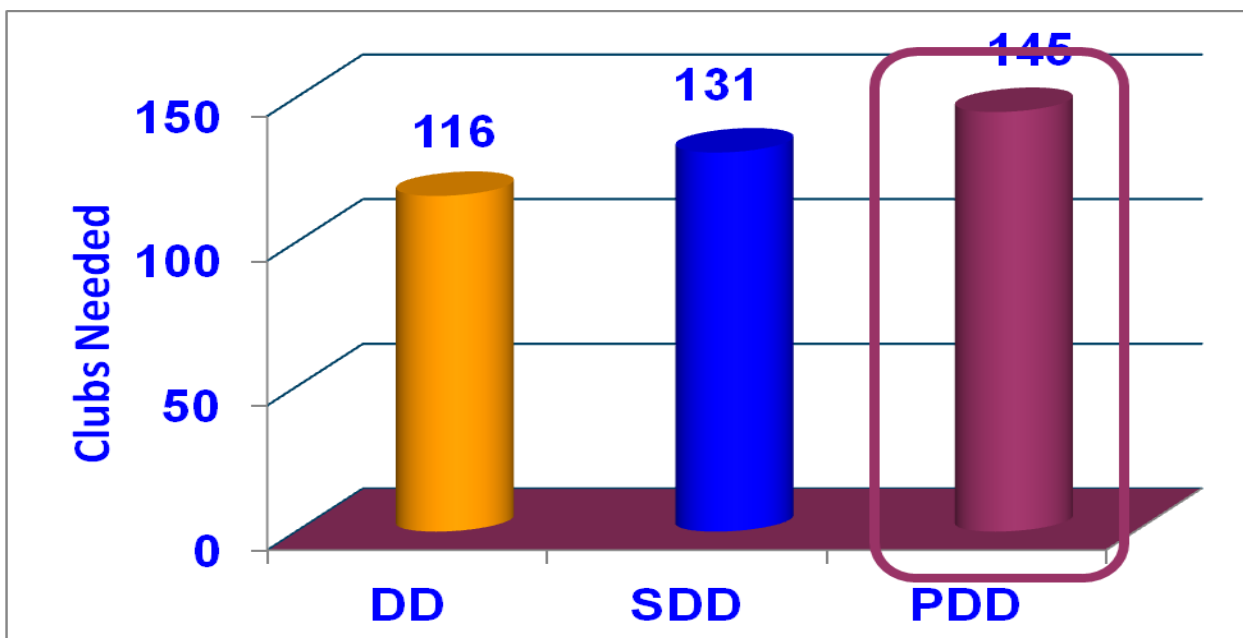
### Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, Clinton Hunt, DTM gave his report regarding Education and Training:

The Distinguished District Roadmap

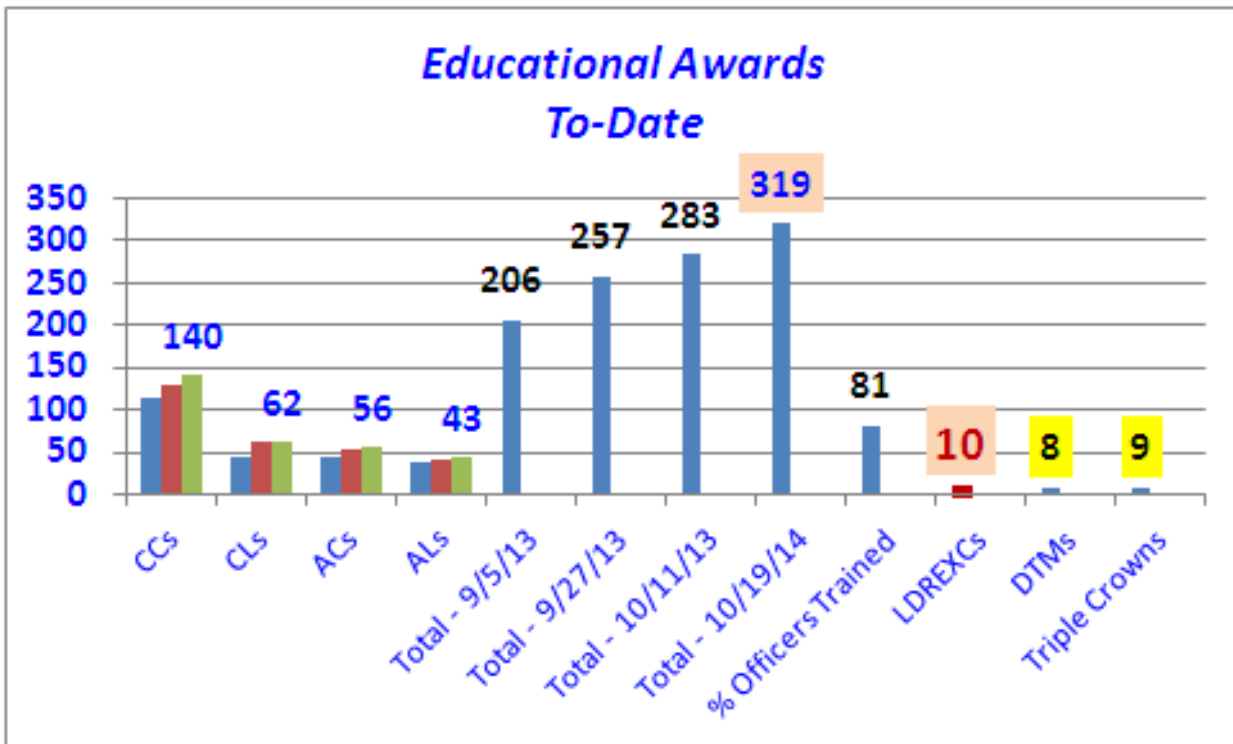
- Budget
- Success Plan
- Membership Growth
- Distinguished Clubs
- Club Growth

2012-2013: Congratulations District 6 Members! Your focus on excellence made our district Distinguished!

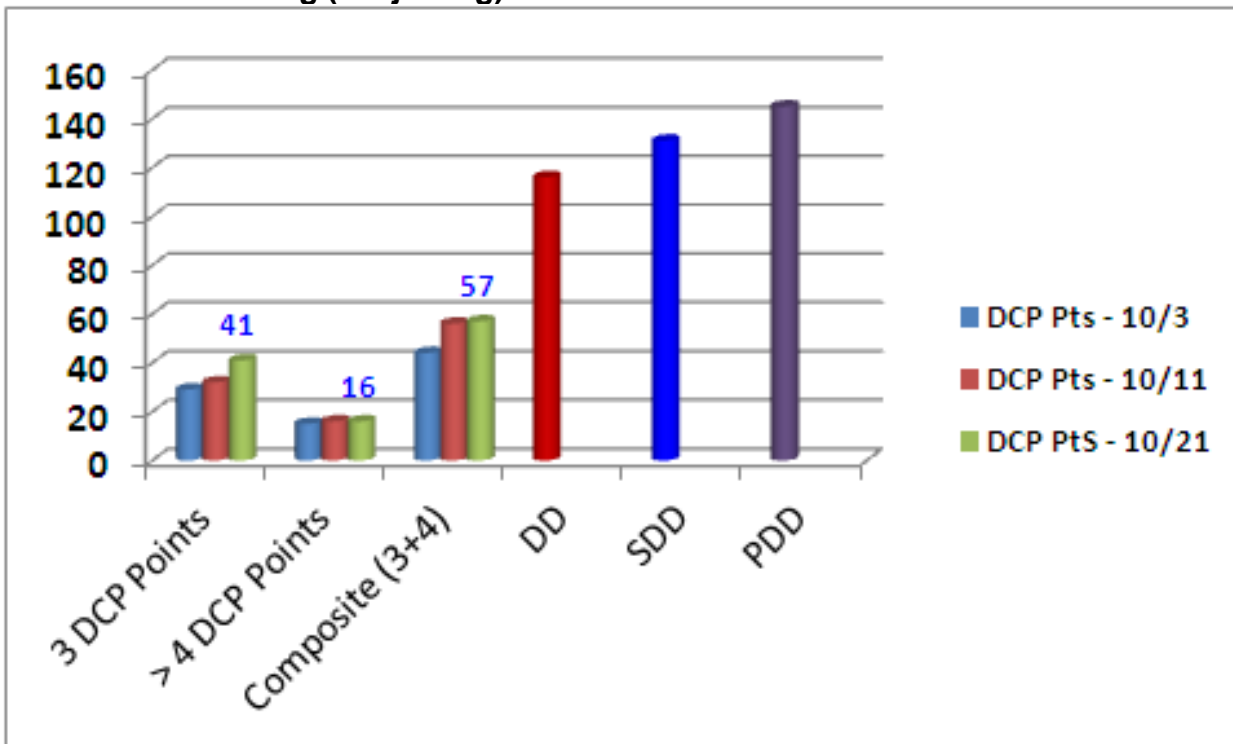
### Clubs Required (To be distinguished)



**Educational Awards:**



**DCP Points Tracking (Projecting):**



Revitalized Educational Program Updates: Changes will be coming soon which will provide greater focus on the individual and provide various developmental paths.

Summary/Conclusions-LGET

- Magnificent 7 Tracking-Excellent
- DCO Trending Favorably
- Several Youth Leadership Programs in the Work
- Speechcrafts- in process

**Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, Larry Marik, DTM gave his report regarding Marketing:**

Annual Membership Program

-July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

-Open to all members!

- Sponsor 5 new members  
Receive Membership Building Pin
- Sponsor 10 new members  
Receive Gold Star Pin
- Sponsor 15 new members  
15% Discount off next purchase at TI Store

**Club with Six or Less members: 9 clubs**

<u>Club</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Renewal Status</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
5126	E	16	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Pleasure Speakers	Maplewood
1523	I	31	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Duluth Club	Duluth
687051	M	44	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Expressly Speaking Club	Minneapolis
75	M	46	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Minneapolis Club	Minneapolis
1392	M	42	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Metro Speak Easy Club	Minneapolis
4217	M	45	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Butler Expressors Club	Minneapolis
1531670	P	64	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	12 West	Delano
6025	P	62	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Creative Memories Club	Saint Cloud
7215	S	81	Low - Minimum Requirement not yet met	Shakopee Toastmasters	Shakopee

**Clubs Missing October dues: 12 Clubs**

<u>Club</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Renewal Status</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
1912098	C	2	**Renewals not here**	Toast To Health	Bloomington
9924	E	16	**Renewals not here**	Discovery Club	Oakdale
2468331	E	11	**Renewals not here**	Energy Park Power Toasters	Saint Paul
628326	I	33	**Renewals not here**	Quad Cities Club	Virginia
1094424	I	33	**Renewals not here**	ITASCA Toastmasters Club	Grand Rapids
3256142	M	44	**Renewals not here**	Impression Makers	Minneapolis
2580419	M	41	**Renewals not here**	AECOMradz	Minneapolis
1136424	M	45	**Renewals not here**	HGA Speakeasies	Minneapolis
1102422	N	56	**Renewals not here**	Money Talk\$	Brooklyn Center
490	S	83	**Renewals not here**	Plain-ly Speaking	Plainview
922405	S	82	**Renewals not here**	Faribault Area Toastmasters Club	FARIBAULT

As of 10/22/13

2 clubs chartered: Yomari Stars Toastmasters (Minneapolis) and 3M Hutchinson Toastmasters (Hutchinson)

2 clubs have charter paperwork pending: Wells Fargo (Bloomington) and Pupernickle Toastmaster, paperwork submitted on 10/25/13

Graco, Inc (Minneapolis) has plans to submit charter paperwork next week, goal is 30 charter members.

4 other kick off meetings have occurred. We have two kick-off meetings scheduled so far in November.

Club Base is 290 clubs, current club count is 291. LGM's goal is 300, DG's goal is 314.

**Public Relations Officer, Colbert Fong, DTM, provided the following:**

Fellow Toastmasters, the Public Relations team has been very busy promoting District 6 over the past few months. Thanks to Colleen Hamilton, we continued the tradition with a booth lined up at the State Fair with great interactions with visitors. Carol Duling has been helping to promote toastmasters to her community, and she has been working on our District Newsletters diligently with another release that will be out after the fall conference. Anandram Seriram has been very busy arranging speakers. Garth Anderson was scheduled to speak at a school in Mendota Heights and Diane Windingland is scheduled to speak at Strayer University. Anandram was also able to update the Speakers Bureau's section in our District's website with Lisa Burnside's help.

We have other accomplishment also. Thanks to Kathy Lundy, George Deliduka was speaking at the Twin Cities Postal Customer Council Evolve 2013 event on September 18<sup>th</sup>. District 6 had a booth table at the event, while Kathy, George, Brook Lemm-Tabor, and myself were there to represent District 6 Toastmaster. Our district's effort to help improve communication and leadership skills was also recognized by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. District 6 was awarded with Certificate of Recognition on September 25, 2013. We also want to thank our members who worked on requesting the proclamation of October as Toastmaster's month and we thank you the city of Thunder Bay for the proclamation this morning.

The Public Relations Team will continue to work closely with the Marketing Team to further promote District 6. We are currently looking at the possibility to get video testimony from millennial members with the help of the Millennial Marketing Team, and we will work closely with our Club Brand Chair for the opportunity to improve clubs' brand awareness in District 6. Anne Groetsch and myself are also working on an event with Ryan Avery, World Champion of Public Speaking 2012, for a workshop event on December 17<sup>th</sup>. It couldn't be possible to accomplish all these without everyone mentioned before, and our Assistant PRO Dan Nelson and Jennie Bartholomew. Thank you very much!

**The Division Governors gave their reports:**

**Central Division Report– Helene Gagoud**

Central Division has recently finished a very successful wave of area contests with great participation from the majority of clubs. Contestants exhibited great creativity and humorous skills, providing us all with great role models and entertaining. Thank you to all contestants, club members that came to

support them and volunteers, as well as the great Central Division Area Governors for making these area contests great and fun events.

Since the beginning of the year, Central Division has met 52 DCP goals for the existing 32 clubs, including:

- 13 competent communication awards
- 6 advanced communication awards
- 14 leadership awards
- 175 officers have been trained including 100% of the officers in Area 1 thanks to the tenacity and influencing skills the area 1 Governor, Jim Rhodes, has demonstrated.

Central Division has an excellent track record with meeting DCP goals. Still, in order to maintain this good track record, the Area Governors in Central are diligently launching multiple initiatives tailored to each club specificities to ensure this good track record is reproduced in 13-14.

An area for improvement for the Central Division is membership, where despite 60 new members in Central Division, the membership has fallen by a net of 113 members. This is partially due to some members not having paid their dues yet.

To reverse this tendency, the Central Division Governor will also wear the new position of Membership Chair and will work to complement the different actions that the Area Governors are launching to inspire the clubs to address their membership situation as they see fit. A few clubs will be offered coaches in order to bring their membership back in line with the DCP program requirement.

Finally, the area governor clubs visits are concluding on September 31<sup>st</sup>, with the Area 6 and 5 Governors having filed 100% of their reports on line, for the clubs to benefit from their suggestions already. Kuddos to Annette Peterson and Alex Stone for their dedication and effort!

Again, with the great Toastmasters members, club officers and lastly, but not least, the great Central Division Area Governors, the Central Division is on its way to become President Distinguished for 13-14. Thanks to all for providing the best environment where our members can develop their communication and leadership skills!

### **Eastern Division Governor – Brad Reuvers**

100% of Eastern Division clubs submitted their officer lists on time.

97% of the division clubs had at least 4 officers trained - 156 officers trained total - an average of 5.2 officers per club.

90% of the clubs have renewed their dues in October.

77% of the clubs renewed their dues on time.

With all the positive news, there is one area we should focus on. The entire division can improve on its membership. State employees clubs are taking the lead and banding together for a membership drive on October 30th.

Governor visits are in progress and due to be completed on time. Area 11 is the first Area to submit all governor visit reports.

We are making steady progress on our educational awards. All but four clubs have achieved at least one of their goals so far this year.

## **Frontier Division Governor – Garth Andersen (read by Nancy Hobbs)**

The Frontier Division had a successful contest season culminating on Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a festive time as we celebrated the best of the Frontier Division in the Table Topics and the Humorous speech contests. Most of the area visits have been completed and we will be gearing up for the second round of Officer Training. The first round of officer training saw over 80% of the Frontier Division officers trained with many clubs training all 7 officers. The Frontier Division only had one club that did not get at least 4 officers trained. Our goal for the second round is 7 of 7 for every club. Clubs are earning DCP points and adding new members.

## **International Division Governor – Grege Scholz**

**December TLI:** December 14<sup>th</sup> in Duluth, MN at the Minnesota Power Building, **save the date**

**Officer Training Review:** 79% of officers trained.

**Club Visits:** Club visits are underway, none are listed yet on-line, however I am assured they are being worked on.

**DCP progress:** Based upon the Distinguished Level- 21% of the way there.

### **Current Challenges:**

- No Area 33 Governor
- Clubs that don't meet every week
- Membership : 14 Clubs, 187 Members (Average 13 members per club)

## **Metro Division Report– Sandi Robarge**

Metro Division Highlights:

- Officer Training - several successful training sessions
- Fabulous, fun first round of speech contests
- AG club visits completed - 40% entered in TM
- DCP Progress - Multiple clubs on track to distinguished - 34 clubs / 700 members / 569 active / 70 goals completed to date!
- Area Governor - building on their strong foundation - supporting members / encouraging growth  
Focus on both the new members and current members

We have two fabulous new corporate clubs:

Impression Makers-Club #3256142 meeting at Periscope

Yomari Stars-Club #3356690 meeting at Yomari

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Metro Division this year!

## **Northern Division Report– Harold Osmundson**

It has been an honor to serve the clubs and members of the Northern Division. This division is blessed with quality clubs, enthusiastic members, and strong leaders. We also have a fantastic team of 7 Area Governors, an excellent Training Coordinator, and so many leaders who selflessly help. Through the partnership of the division team and the clubs, we've already achieved remarkable



results. The Northern Division clubs did an outstanding job with officer training in the first round. All clubs had at least 4 officers trained. More remarkably, 37 of the 39 clubs had all 7 officers trained. My goal is for those 37 clubs to achieve the Magnificent 7 award for having all 7 officers trained in both rounds. This is more than an award. The numbers mean something. It'll pay off for all officers to really understand the 10 goals that enable their club to provide the best possible experience for members and guests. I want to thank each club officer, as well as the division's Area Governors and Training Coordinator for this achievement.

All the division's clubs submitted their membership renewals to Toastmasters International. Thus far, all but 1 club has received credit for submitting by the deadline, although that club may still get credit. We had a successful round of speech contests in September. I want to thank every member that attended, volunteered, and/or competed in the contests. Strong participation is the essential ingredient for great contests. We're already looking forward to the Spring contests.

Our greatest challenge is to increase membership in each club. Although not all renewals have been accounted for yet, the division's total active membership is down approximately 158 members from its base of 731 (a decrease of 21%). Our total membership is currently understated, but we have work to do. To address this, we're working with clubs on membership-building activities, as well as practices that create quality meetings for members and guests. We've already had 70 new members this year, and that number will only increase. We're off to a great start, but we have work to do. The Northern Division team and I are looking forward to the challenge, and to serving our members the best we can.

### **Prairie Division Report– Raymond Norton**

What fun is life without challenges? How boring would it be if everything were predictable and I could stand before you today and guarantee every Prairie Division club to be Presidential Distinguished, June 30th, 2014.

Our team came into the new year with a clear understanding of challenges we faced in reaching our goal as a distinguished division this TM year. When you face a challenge, the first thing you need is good and timely information to form a proper assessment.

Secondly, you develop a plan that is most likely to help you reach your goals in the time frame you have to work with. We have done both.

Time does not allow me to cover the details of our plan today, but I will say we are aggressively executing our plan and working closely with our clubs to meet their individual needs.

Here are a few stats of where we are at today:

On the 1st round of officer training, 100% of all clubs were trained

All clubs have paid dues, except for 1.

Our Area Governors are gaining confidence and vision

New ideas are being developed to increase membership

The Prairie Division has developed our own Award program to inspire members to motivate others.

We have a great team spirit!

39% of our clubs have seen membership increase since July 1

43% of our clubs have lost 3 or more members since July 1

34% of our clubs have 3 or more DCP points, with 1 club in Area 64 setting the pace with 5 points

As you can see we do have areas that need improvement. However, as I indicated before, we understand our challenges and The Prairie Division is gearing up for a Game Changing year.

### **Rivers Division Report– Linda Ruhland (presented by Carol Walter)**

Rivers Division Area governors are actively visiting with club members. They had done an astounding job organizing area contests and recruiting club member participation. Most visit reports are in for this term. I will follow up on those still pending. Occasional challenges have been identified and the area governors are collaborating with one another to assist with ideas for new membership recruiting and existing membership engagement. Quality clubs and meetings continue to be our emphasis as we believe the Rivers Division does best and will continue to grow through the active clubs that are supported by strong teams of officers at the club, division and district levels.

### **Southern Division Report– Doug Blakesley**

Madam District Governor, Fellow Toastmasters. Distinguished and Most Honored Guests at my workplace when we return to an unfinished job, or before we start the next step of the task, we perform a “2 Minute Drill” to take note of what we accomplished, what we need to accomplish, and the recognize what the pitfalls may be before plunging ahead. As Southern Division Governor this is my “2 Minute Drill”. Only three weeks ago, we completed a very successful Fall Contest in Mankato, Minnesota. All six areas were represented by very good and humorous speakers. This contest was our symbolic Fall Harvest marking the end to a flurry of activities including new Club Officer training, club and area contests, and getting dues collected and submitted on time. Now, together with my Area Governors and Division Trainer, we need to concentrate on completing our Area Club Visit Reports; and then, study those reports to determine how we can be of greater service to the Toastmasters in our Division. We presently have 28 clubs. Our challenges include:

- 1) Membership building- 14 of our Clubs have fewer than 12 members
- 2) Getting a minimum of 4 Club Officers trained in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round- 3 clubs missed this goal during the 1<sup>st</sup> round
- 3) Determining why 3 clubs did not pay their minimum dues on time

But to leave you on a “Happy Note”, I believe the “Southern Division” is strong and representative of this assertion is that 7 clubs are already half way to “Distinguished” with three or more goals achieved; and I am proud to report that our Fall Southern Division “Host Club” has the lead with six goals met!

### **Western Division Report – Ben Smith**

Western Division has seen some obstacles arise in the first few months of this Toastmaster year. From replacing an Area Governor, to losing a failing club, to finding ways to help some clubs keep from becoming failing clubs, we are finding opportunities to make Western Division a stronger, Empowered Division. A Division that has as its foundation the Toastmaster Core Values:

1. Integrity
2. Dedication to Excellence
3. Service to our Members
4. Respect for the Individual

My AG team and I are committed to using these Core Values to help the clubs in Western Division be a place where members can come to hone their communication skills, improve their leadership skills, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members looking to improve themselves in a fun, productive club.

Harry Truman said, "A pessimist is someone who makes difficulties of his opportunities. An optimist is someone who makes opportunities of his difficulties." In that regard, I'm optimistic that the Western team will finish this year as a Distinguished Division.

**Nominating Committee Chair, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, provided her report.**

Dru Jorgensen reviewed information regarding the process for nominations. The following nominations were announced at the meeting:

- Clinton Hunt for District 6 Governor 2014-2015
- Larry Marik for Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training 2014-2015
- Mary Adams for Frontier Division Governor 2014-2015, nominated by Daniel Grundtner
- Jonathan Goossen for Rivers Division Governor 2014-2015
- Ruth Alliband for Rivers Division Governor 2014-2015
- Michael Browne for Metro Division Governor 2014-2015
- Annette Peterson for Central Division Governor 2014-2015, nominated by Helene Gagoud

**New Business:** No new business discussed

Adjourn at 2:57 (EST) by Sharon Rollefson