



Minutes of District 6 Executive Council Meeting
Saturday, November 4, 2017
Doubletree Hotel, Rochester, MN

District Director, Harold Osmundson, DTM, called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

District Administration Manager, Deb Luu, DTM, read the District Mission.

Credentials Chair, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, PDD, provided the Credentials report.

Quorum for the District 6 fall conference business meeting is 1/3 of clubs in good standing (October semiannual dues paid for eight or more members). Quorum does not include district officer votes represented.

The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:

- 1/3 of 272 paid clubs means 90 clubs are needed
- 111 total clubs are represented
- District Officer votes = 41
- Total votes = 258

With 111 clubs represented, the District does have a quorum. The Credentials report was adopted.

District Director, Harold Osmundson, DTM, adopted the agenda as there were no objections to doing so.

District Director, Harold Osmundson, DTM, assigned Tosin Agboola as the timer for the meeting.

District Administration Manager, Deb Luu, DTM, announced that the minutes of our 2017 Spring Convention Business Meeting are currently posted at the hotel and are also available to members on the District 6 website.

The minutes will formally approved. There were no corrections to the minutes.

2016-2017 Audit Committee Chair, Terry Ragan, DTM, presented the Auditor's Report for the Toastmasters year 2016-2017.

The audit committee has completed the review of the District 6 Financial documents and found one report in question (unable to verify payment amount after reviewing documents) which was reported to the 2016-2017 District 6 Leadership. No other issues were identified.

One suggestion was presented – "To better track accurate mileage reimbursements, the Audit Committee suggests that exact addresses be used from point of origin to point of destination instead of city to city when using such software as "Google Maps" or any other software". This will provide a more accurate and fairer reimbursement for mileage to everyone.

Audit Committee Members:

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

Brian Hinton, DTM – District 6 Audit Co-Chair, 2016-2017

Jean Pearson, DTM – District 6 Audit Co-Chair, 2016-2017

The auditor's report was formally approved and adopted.

Finance Manager, Nancy Hobbs, DTM, announced the budget has been posted in the lobby for everyone to review; in addition, it was also reviewed by the District Council, prior to submission to Toastmasters International. The budget has been submitted to Toastmasters International and has been reviewed by World Headquarters to ensure it follows proper guidelines. Copies of mapquest need to be submitted with mileage request – doing since July.

The District 6 Budget was approved.

Reports by Senior Officers:

District Director, Harold Osmundson, DTM

“What makes a great district? What should be our focus?”

These are key questions I've had since the 2017-2018 Toastmasters program year started in July. In pursuing the activities that must be done (such as club and district officer training, speech contests, the TLI, and the Fall Conference, among other activities), these two critical questions emerged over and over. District 6 has a talented team of committed volunteers, but what will make this a great district and what must be our focus to achieve that end? After 4 months of serving and leading the District 6 team in this program year, and in seeing the challenges confronting the club leaders we serve, the answers are clear.

This report will not be about numbers, nor will it frame numbers in a way to show our success. Our club leaders, the people who stepped up to lead clubs and serve members, deserve better than that. However, some hard facts and numbers should be presented to show that we understand the challenges:

- In the October round of renewals, 1,500 of the 5,800 members in clubs within District 6 haven't yet renewed. That's nearly 26% of the overall membership lost.
- Among the 298 clubs in District 6, 145 currently have 12 or fewer members. That's nearly half the clubs within District 6.

Although these are aggregate numbers, they reflect the challenges that each club faces. Even though District 6 sits as #1 in Region 4, we can't celebrate these results. A district is simply a collection of clubs, with a small set of leaders who are elected and appointed to serve the needs of those clubs. Therefore, on average, each club has lost 26% of its members, and nearly half the clubs are in low-member status (compared to the charter-strength standard of 20 members). This means our club leaders and members are strained, as they work to maintain a quality club and member experience with fewer members. I acknowledge these challenges, and on behalf of the District 6 team, I pledge to do better. For the benefit of the clubs, members, and leaders we serve, we must do better.

To help our clubs grow and maintain a high-quality environment, our team is committed to providing the resources that club leaders need. In coming month, education and training will be offered to members and leaders in the following 5 areas:

1. Running quality meetings to provide the best experience for members

2. Providing effective evaluations so each member can give and receive quality feedback
3. Member and new-member orientation, allowing each member to understand what the Toastmasters program offers him/her
4. Articulating the value of the club experience and the Toastmasters program, helping clubs best promote themselves to their target audience
5. Public relations and promotion skills, to help clubs efficiently reach their target audience

Club leaders deserve the opportunity to grow and succeed in their roles, and I want them to be successful in their leadership journey. Our training and support must enable their growth and success.

In considering the amazing members and leaders in District 6, we have the resources to be a great district. If we work together to help each club grow strong, we'll certainly achieve greatness, grow as leaders, and impact many lives as a result.

What makes a great district? A great district takes care of its clubs and club leaders, supporting their achievement.

What should be our focus for the remainder of the 2017-2018 program year? Plain and simple, our focus must be on our clubs. Our clubs are #1.

Program Quality Director North, Ben Smith, DTM

The member experience is the essence of our organization. This experience is formed and shaped in the ecosystem of a Toastmasters Club and in events that the district organizes to expand the member experience.

The past dues renewal period we have 1500 non-renewing members out of 5800 members-that's 26% of our membership that is no longer continuing their Toastmasters journey. Some of them may be from life changes: new job, relocation, or family life. But some of them are because they decided they weren't getting what they needed from the Toastmasters educational program and their club.

What can we do to make your member experience even better?

1. Have quality clubs; and
2. Provide opportunities for expanded education

What is a quality club? **A QUALITY CLUB** has these 4 foundation blocks:

1. Schedules and runs a great meeting
2. Has effective evaluations
3. Knows what Toastmasters offers in the communication and leadership tracks and helps members accomplish their educational goals
4. Knows how to market its club and knows how to turn guests into members

What is the first step the district can take to help all clubs take it to the next level of a quality club? Train club officers to execute on these 4 foundation blocks.

With that in mind, we've been focusing 100% on what's best for the member and the club officer, by concentrating on helping officers run a strong and successful club. That may mean that there will be changes in terms of length, format, and number of upcoming trainings in the next round of Club Officer Training.

This year has seen the **introduction of PxD6**, Powered by District 6. Led by past Division E Director Josh Rensch and our Public Relations Manager Sandi Robarge, these events are made available to everyone as a means of providing value to you outside of the regular Toastmasters meeting and also as an opportunity for non-Toastmasters to come and check out what Toastmasters offers. In October we held “Get the Interview, Get the Job.” It was a panel discussion on job interview skills where we had a panel of 4 human resource experts answer questions regarding interview skills with approximately 80 Toastmasters AND non-Toastmasters in attendance.

Stay tuned for more info on both of these endeavors!

Program Quality Director South Jean Pearson, DTM

Club officer training went quite well the first round and many officers received quality and informative training. My goal for the remainder of the year is to have more training on different areas and aspects of Toastmasters the clubs can use such as how to run a quality meeting, judges training, and how to be a world champion public speaker, to name a few. I would also like to have at least two TLI-like training sessions. I feel this will provide clubs that want to improve better training while offering shorter officer training sessions for those who have been in Toastmasters a long time. For the TLI-like trainings I will involve more of the experienced membership. This will strengthen the pool to draw from for trainers and further educate the membership. The only way we can strengthen clubs is to train them on the qualities required to perform, succeed, and grow. Another area of possible training is to create a better understanding of the DCP. I feel it's beneficial for clubs to understand the DCP is not to be interpreted as a negative district-driven tool but instead simply viewed as a measurement which assists clubs and their membership to ensure they're reaching their personal growth and leadership goals. The DCP does not create success – fully engaged clubs that embrace the mission of Toastmasters and empowers its membership to achieve desired goals in communication and leadership create success!

Club Growth Director North, Dave Gibson, DTM

It is a testament to the unity of our team that much of what I wanted to report on has already been covered by Harold, Ben and Jean.

This is my report on Club Growth Activities for District 6 North, consisting of Divisions A, B, C, G, and I. We have our first new club chartered with 26 members, 4 more in process of chartering.

New clubs are not our current main focus currently but rather the status of membership in our existing clubs.

Of the 146 clubs in the North 121 are below charter strength.

75 clubs are 12 members or below. This is over half of our clubs. This is a statistic that we must work together to improve.

Several of you have already been asked to stand up and be a club coach. A successful club coaching program will help these clubs build membership back towards charter strength.

If you have it within your bandwidth to help out as a club coach, please let Ravi or myself know.

If we band together to support all clubs, No club will be left behind,

Thank you.

Club Growth Director South, Ravi Rai, DTM

We have approximately 60 clubs that are below charter strength.

Overall 119 clubs are below charter strength.

I am calling on Toastmasters to up their game and consider helping these clubs as coaches or visiting them.

It is an important part of your leadership journey - working with clubs by showing your expertise to get the quality back into our Toastmaster's meetings.

Public Relations Manager, Sandi Robarge, DTM

New to PR for 2017-2018 - Powered by District 6 (PxD6), led by Josh Rensch, DTM

- Events provide an opportunity for Toastmasters to invite their non-TM colleagues, friends, and family members
- Guests experience a well-run, educational program with no pressure to join
- Networking and professional growth for all

Two successful events have been held so far this year:

- The Power of Storytelling with Patrick Rhone
- Get the Interview, Get the Job Panel Discussion

Upcoming event:

- An Hour of 5-Minute "Ted-type" Talks – watch for details!

Banner/Booth:

- Lots of activity in Twin Cities and southern suburbs
- Positive feedback from those that have used the resources
- Easy to sign-up (via D6TM.org) and easy to set-up/use
- Make a powerful, professional impact at your next event

October 2017 Toastmasters Month Proclamations:

- State of Minnesota – Governor Mark Dayton
- City of Oakdale – Mayor Paul Reinke
- City of Hugo – Mayor Tom Weidt

This year's contests are ready.

The Web Excellence Program, led by Cheryl Bergstrom, will increase the impact your website has on first-time and repeat visitors. Cheryl and her team will be surfing the net to locate, highlight, and recognize website excellence as it is discovered.

Media Contests, led by Kent Hawks, offer a way for your club to "*show us your stuff*". Share your club Podcast, Video, Newsletter, Guest Packet, Public Service Announcement or Press Release to help other clubs gain traction in the area of Public Relations.

Noteworthy PR materials from all categories will be featured throughout the year. Watch for additional information on the D6 website under Public Relations.

Call for assistance:

In preparation for the Fall Conference, I struggled in connecting with the media, and realized I need your help! I am on the lookout for those of you with experience in this area. Please contact Sandi Robarge if you are interested in leading or participating in an ongoing media outreach program for District 6.

Reformation Report, Larry Marik, DTM, PDD

"Fellow Toastmasters,

At the 2016 Spring Conference, the District voted to split the District into two Districts. These two Districts will be District 6 and District 106 on July 1, 2018. We have been in contact with World Headquarters on next steps of this reformation. At the upcoming Spring Conference, we will have two Business meetings. One for District 6 North and one for District 6 South. More details will be sent out as we get closer to this event. We have also been in contact with other Districts who have recently reformed in regards to things that went well and challenges. We are working on splitting our Districts assets and last year additional items have been purchased so we have banners, etc. for both Districts. We are also looking into setting up social media and a website for the new District 106. This ends my report. Mr. District Director"

Leadership Committee Report, Diane Windingland, DTM, PDD

Respectfully submitted 11/4/2017 by Diane Windingland, DTM, Chair of the DLC

The District 6 Leadership Committee has recently been appointed with one committee member from each of the 10 Divisions.

The Committee Members Are:

Chair: Diane Windingland

A: Stephen Shaner

B: Jessica Parker

C: Vaughn Ginnette

D: Annette Peterson

E: Carol Duling

F: Ken Scribner

G: Colleen Hamilton

H: Brian Rice

I: Kim Windingland

J: Monte Jefson

The District Leadership Committee will seek out, evaluate and nominate candidates for the 2018-2019 elected positions for District X North (tentatively District 106) and District Y South (tentatively District 6), for a total of 16 positions. The elected positions for District X North, are District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director and Division Directors for Divisions A, B, C, G and I. The elected positions for District Y South are District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director and Division Directors for Divisions D, E, F, H and J

Anyone interested in running for a 2018-2019 elected role must confirm their intent to run for office by January 13, 2018. Toastmasters International agreed to an extension from the Dec. 15, 2017. Candidate interviews will be in-person on Saturday, January 13, running concurrently with the DEC meeting. Anyone not interviewed in-person on that day will have a scheduled online interview. You may announce your candidacy today during the announcement portion of the business meeting. You may also submit your paper work online through the District 6 website by January 13.

The District Leadership Committee will submit its report of candidates to District Director Harold Osmundson by March 24, 2018 which is 6 weeks prior to the Spring Conference business meeting, as required by Toastmasters International.

New Business:

1. Confirmation of Edward Burke as Division J Director. Passed.
2. District Boundary Modifications – Part of District 78 moved to District 6. Passed. Boundaries will include Douglas and Grant counties in Minnesota for District 6. Division B, likely Area 11, will serve. Dan Grundtner, MNRPCV #1284, made a motion to petition Toastmasters International to subsidize Fall Conferences going forward. Second. Don Rollefson, Word Masters #2848, discussed his experience as District 6 Finance Manager. Harold said Toastmasters International does not subsidize Fall Conferences but they are funded through District 6. Money will stay with District but used in allocation with more training, more education, and serving clubs. Theo Black, OPTUMists # 02342360, confirmed how it works where conferences are suppose to pay for themselves. Beth Sommerville, Dan Patch #1280, spoke against the motion. Keith Hardy, MNRPCV #1284, asked where time and money would be spent instead of Fall conference. Harold said that it would be spent on training and educational events that would benefit the clubs. Vote taken – motion did not pass.

Announcements:

District 6 Candidate announcements for 2018-2019 Toastmasters year:

Ben Smith DTM, Program Quality Director North announced his candidacy for District Director, District 106

Jean Pearson DTM, Program Quality Director South announced her candidacy for District Director,
District 6

Dave Gibson DTM, Club Growth Director North, announced his candidacy for Program Quality Director,
District 106

Ravi Rai DTM, Club Growth Director South, announced his candidacy for Program Quality Director,
District 6

Karlynn Hoard DTM announced her candidacy for Club Growth Director, District 106

Laura Bathke DTM announced her candidacy for Division H Director

Edward Aylward announced his candidacy for Division C Director

David Schmidt announced his candidacy for Division B Director

Larry Marik DTM, Past District Director, announced that he declared at Spring Conference his candidacy for
Region 4 Director

Balraj Arunasulum DTM, President of Toastmasters International, recognized 3 Toastmasters – 3
photographers, 3 outstanding Toastmasters – Duane Noto DTM, Kim Windingland DTM, Dave Hanson

The next District Council meeting for District 6 will be held on Saturday, May 5th, 2018 during the Spring
Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth, Minnesota.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM (CST) by Harold Osmundson.