

District 6 Toastmasters
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council
Spring Conference
April 21, 2012

District Governor, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM

Inspirational Message was given by Area Governor 75 Jim Jensen

Teresa Fehn, DTM, read the District Mission

Catherine Rai Cardenuto welcomed everybody and gave introductory remarks.

Credentials Chair, George Deliduka, DTM, announced the following:

The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:

1/3 are needed for a quorum = 187.5 club votes required

Club votes accounted for 233

Total votes = 243

The Credentials report was adopted.

We do have a quorum.

Catherine Rai Cardenuto followed the business meeting standing rules were presented, voted on and was adopted. The agenda was adopted.

Catherine Rai Cardenuto appointed Brian Hinton as the Timer. There were no objections.

Catherine Rai Cardenuto appointed Ravi Rai as the Teller. There were no objections.

District Governor, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, announced that the minutes from the 2011 Spring Conference and minutes from the 2011 Fall Conference hard copies have been on display at the hotel for everyone to review. Nobody offered any corrections to the minutes posted. The 2011 Spring Conference and 2011 Fall Conference were approved.

Audit Committee Chair, Terry Ragan, DTM, announced that the audit report has been submitted to Toastmaster International and has been on display at the hotel for everyone to review. The audit report has been approved.

District Treasurer, BJ Olsen, DTM, announced that the treasurer's report has been on display at the hotel for everyone to review. Nobody had any questions. They have been filed for audit.

Realignment Chair, Joan Estenson, DTM, announced that the realignment of the clubs has been on the display at the hotel for everyone to review. The posted report is what we will vote on.

One known change is in Metro Division:

- Oracle Toastmasters will move from Area 46 to Area 43 for the 2012-2013 Toastmaster Year
- HGA Speakeasies will move from Area 43 to Area 46 for the 2012-2013 Toastmaster Year

Move to include the above change to be approved with the posted realignment report.

Discussion:

- Marilyn Bennett: Mankato Club still in Southern Area 81
- Janet Betz: Concerns about new clubs. New Clubs will be realigned later. Why are Ziegler Enterprise and Sea Speakers moving out of Area 81?
- Joan Estenson: Area 81 started out with 7 clubs. The aim is to have at least 5 clubs for each area. Joan deferred rest of question to Dru Jorgensen.
- Dru Jorgensen: Moved to make a stronger group in the Prairie Division by putting Chanhassen into the Prairie Division.
- Cathy Lunden: What clubs are staying in Area 81?
- Joan Estenson: Listed the following clubs that will stay in Area 81: Minnesota River Valley, Shakopee, New Prague Area and Mankato Club.

Question to Move to approve the realignment report with the known change to Metro Division.

Motion was seconded.

The realignment has been approved as posted with the one change for the Metro Division.

Nominating Committee Chair, Stephen Shaner, DTM, provided his report.

Members of the Nominating Committee:

Ryan Hove, Larry Marik, Nancy Shaner, Jill Nauman, Mike Orr, Kim Windingland, Faye Hefele, Ann Maxfield, Dan Friedman Shedlov, Duane Noto, and as an advisor, Shirley Daniel.

Additional nominations were requested and none were presented.

First Name	Last Name	Office Sought
Dru	Jorgenson	District Governor
Sharon	Rollefson	LGET
Clinton	Hunt	LGM
Joe	Brauer	LGM
Eric	McBrayer	Central
Jean	McAllister	Eastern
Garth	Andersen	Frontier
Dan	Grundtner	Frontier
Sue	McCoy	International
Glen	DeGuzman	Metro
Colbert	Fong	Northern
Jon	Chamlers	Prairie
Rick	Holtmeier	Prairie
Laurie	Buchberger	Rivers
Rosemary	Evers	Southern

Jean	Pearson	Southern
Colleen	Hamilton	Western

District 6 Governor, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, moved to cast one ballot for the uncontested candidates as elected. Motion was approved. The following candidates were elected as the appropriate office listed.

First Name	Last Name	Office Sought
Dru	Jorgenson	District Governor
Sharon	Rollefson	LGET
Eric	McBrayer	Central
Jean	McAllister	Eastern
Sue	McCoy	International
Glen	DeGuzman	Metro
Colbert	Fong	Northern
Laurie	Buchberger	Rivers
Colleen	Hamilton	Western

District 6 Governor, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, started the 2 minute speeches for each candidate for the contested offices.

Reports

District Report was given by District 6 Governor, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM

Competent Communicators (CCs) to Date: 349
 Goal for June 30: 374
 District is behind: 25

Advanced Communicators (ACs) to Date: 165
 Goal for June 30: 107
 District is ahead: 58

Membership Payments Base: 10701
 Membership Payments to Date: 9477
 Goal for June 30: 10915
 District is behind: 1438

18 Distinguished Clubs
 18 Select Distinguished Clubs
 3 President Distinguished Clubs
 14% Clubs are Distinguished or better

19 Distinguished Areas
 1 President Distinguished Area
 34% of Areas are Distinguished or better

1 President Distinguished Division

Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, gave her report regarding Education and Training:

The many facets of Toastmasters viewed from the Education and Training realm are sparkling!

An on-going district incentive is our video camera drawing for clubs who earn more than the required education awards for the distinguished club plan. Fellow Toastmasters, the many facets of our clubs are brilliant. Let me share a few examples:

38 clubs exceeded their goals

First St. Paul, Stagecoach Speakers Downtown, Mpls earned 5 or more awards

New club chartered last June... earned 5 CL awards – I have to commend their mentors, Allan Bernard and Jim Miller.

Honorable mention, since they won the December drawing is Northern Division, Area 57's Word of Mouth Club. To date they have earned 10 CC's and 15 leadership awards!

Earlier today we recognized 60 magnificent 7 clubs and 18 new Distinguished Toastmasters.

March 8th, we kicked off our district wide membership building campaign. Our project manager is Terrence Brown from High Tech Talkers. If you are interested in working on our team, please connect with Catherine or myself.

To date we have 53 members of the Triple Crown Club, which is a Toastmasters International recognition program for members who earn 3 or more education awards.

As stated earlier, the many facets of Toastmasters viewed from the Education and Training realm are sparkling.

Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, Sharon Rollefson, DTM provided the following report:

281 clubs in our district

Whole lot more clubs to be distinguished next year

Clubs with less than 20 members are having trouble to get members and trouble maintaining current members. Sharon Rollefson is having a club membership building.

There is still time – get clubs distinguished.

Public Relations Officer, Diane Windingland, DTM, provided the following:

Public Relations Spring Contest:

There were 40 submissions for 6 PR contests: Newsletters, Brochures/Flyers, Websites, Social Media, Guest Packets, and Press Releases. The quality was outstanding!

Recent PR:

The Press Release about our Communication and Leadership Winner, Alan Page was sent to 8 Media Outlets on 4/16

Events:

District 6 was represented at two recent events: Globe's University's Career Fair in Minneapolis and at a Twin's West Chamber Expo Event in Mounds View. All 30+ who stopped by and chatted received a follow up email within 24 hours.

Apparently, follow up is unusual. One person wrote back:

"Among the numerous companies that hosted the job fair, it was only Toastmasters that got back to us with a thank you..."

Additionally, at the Expo Event, we used our smart phones to look up the "find a club" information for people's zip codes and emailed that on the spot to them.

Upcoming Event:

Toastmasters at the Twins – June 30 (The Toastmasters' New Year Eve!)

Minnesota Twins vs. Kansas City Royals. Tickets are \$23 plus a \$1 surcharge per order. See the website to order tickets.

Social Media:

D6 YouTube Channel Created. The featured video, created at the Fall Conference, is the "I Am a Toastmaster Video" features 17 D6 Toastmasters.

Video Contest: 17 entrants! The quality and variety were outstanding! The purpose of the video contest was two-fold: 1. To Encourage clubs to create promotional videos that could be used on their websites, social media and elsewhere. 2. To encourage clubs to promote their clubs during the contact and generate awareness of Toastmasters. There were more than 1800 clicks on the contest and more than 403 votes placed. As a bonus, the contest ended up being an exercise in teamwork and leadership for the participating clubs. Fifteen of the videos are on a playlist on our YouTube Channel.

Facebook Fan Page – up to 147 likes

Facebook Group Page – up to 188 members (internal communication)

Facebook ads have just started running to Targeted Demographics

The Division Governors gave their reports:

Western Division - Shannen Clark

Western Division has faced some challenges this year. As you can see, we've had several struggling clubs and 3 of them have decided to close down. However, when one door closes, another one opens and we are fortunate enough to have welcomed 3 new clubs into the Western Division:

- Area 92 - Results Communicators
- Area 92 – Best Sight Speakers
- Area 94 – Data Park Toasters

Goals we have accomplished this year:

- 40 educational awards from the competent communicator manuals.
- 25 awards from the leadership track
- 227 new members
- 8 magnificent seven clubs
- Area 94 Crosstown talkers had 19 new members

3 clubs have reached Select Distinguished status and they are:

- Area 92 – Marsh Winds
- Area 94 – Crosstown Talkers
- Area 96 – Super Speakers

Most of the club visits are due, just need to submit the reports.

It has been my pleasure and my honor to serve as your Western Division Governor. Congratulations Colleen. Please know I am here to help you.

Southern Division – Janet Betz, DTM

Southern Division has 28 clubs.

April submissions for dues are all in.

3/5 areas have 77 club officers trained both rounds.

2 clubs have reached distinguished status – Mayo Day Breakers & Tuesdays with Toastmasters

2 Areas are now distinguished – Area 83 and Area 85

CC's = 37

AC's = 20

CL's = 26

New Members 108 with active promotions and advertising underway by SDG

Club visits at this point – 16 are in

2 Area Governors are serving as club coaches

Triple Crowns – 6 members have 3 or more awards at this time

TNT – ready to charter with one more members needed

Contests were fun and successful.

Southern Division rocks!

Rivers Division – Nancy Hobbs, DTM

Each of the Area Governors had successful Area Contests. The Rivers Division contest was well attended with 70 Toastmasters and guests present.

Educational Awards: 31 CC's, 19 AC's, 42 Leadership Awards

Membership: Rivers Division has added a total of 158 members, plus an additional 21 charter members of Lifetouch, Visually Speaking.

Currently six clubs are highlighted red as low member clubs, but membership building continues to be a focus for the clubs.

Renewals: Three clubs had late renewals for the April 1 deadline.

Officer Training: Six of the 29 clubs did not meet the minimum of 4 club officers trained second round.

Area Visits: Area 76 has submitted all second round club visits and Area 74 has submitted two second round club visits.

All the Area Governors have been working diligently with their clubs. I am proud of their accomplishments and would like to recognize Kim Cook, Area 73 Governor and Dave Gustafson, Area 76 Governor for achieving Distinguished Area Status.

Hudson Rise and Shine – Distinguished Club
Positively Outspoken and Escalate – Select Distinguished Clubs

Other highlights: Blues Communication Plus within Area 75, my home club achieved first place in the Guest Packet category of the District 6 Public Relations Contest.

Prairie Division – Rich Andresen

Prairie Division is working on membership for their clubs. Area Governors are doing what they can. The training has been weak and we are making changes to that. We are committed to do training in June. Get clubs with a fresh and clean start for next year.

Northern Division – Patrice Hassing

Northern Division performed better on this second round.

We have sent in all Dues Renewals.

We have achieved:

25 CLs, 11 ALBs, 2 ALSs

55 CCs, 7 ACBs, 7 ACSs

1 DTM, 1 LDREXCs

2 New clubs – Mall Talkers and Roasted Toasters, located at the Caribou Headquarters off Hwy 100 and France

4 Distinguished Clubs, 2 Select Distinguished Clubs, 1 President's Distinguished Club

Congratulations to Area 52, 56, and 57 for leading your areas to distinguished status for District 6

On Saturday, March 31st, Northern Division hosted a Lifetime Achievement Award Celebration for AC Carlson for his dedicated 44 years of service to Toastmasters International. Our District Governor, Distinguished Toastmaster, Catherine Rai Cardenuto honored us and presented AC Carlson with this beautiful plaque from District 6. AC Chartered Sunrisers in 1968 and is now with AC Early Risers.

Today at our Education and Training, Parliamentary Procedure is hosting a session, "Taking Care of Business: Running Effective Meetings using Parliamentary Procedure". We invite you to attend.

Metro Division – Jim Kickul

The Magnificent Metro Division is growing: 228 new members, 8 clubs with over 30 members and 3 clubs over 40 members, Corporate clubs are thriving, Open Clubs need attention, Word Merchants club 23 new members, 8 clubs that have added 10 new members, adding toastmasters to your development plan, 54 communication awards (34 CC and 20 AC), 30 leadership awards.

We are finalizing an Education Award push for the month of May/June

Area 41 – Colbert Fong, Area 42 – William Moore, Area 43 – Cindy Dainsberg, Area 44 – Kaye Beiswanger, Area 45 – Glen DeGuzman, Area 46 – Diane Jorgensen, and Area 47 – Jim Seitz

International Division – Jean Mirowski

Greetings from international division, way up North!

I asked the Area Governors for comments regarding the latest tracking report. I received reports of inspirational speeches, of clubs with low membership working on membership building, tenaciously keeping themselves going and achieving educational awards. I heard stories of good people helping each other improve and achieve their goals. I am truly inspired by these reports of speeches, wisdom, courage, and leadership.

We have 5 clubs with all officers trained, Diamonds in the North, one has not been updated as yet. Three clubs have 6 officers trained.

The race is on for Distinguished Club Status – Nanabijou Club, Allete “Power Cord” Toastmasters, and Harborview Club are in the lead!

Sadly, we have lost two clubs, Icebox in International Falls no longer meets and Voix Du Tonnerre Club, the French club in Thunder Bay has dissolved after many years de parlex du francais. Both clubs shall be missed in our Division. We miss our lost members and rejoice in our new members!

Frontier Division – Joe Brauer

Frontier Division is growing. Data from the latest membership report available shows District wide membership gains of 4%. The same report indicates that Frontier Division is up 13% over base membership this year.

The Area Governors in Frontier have been working very hard to support the leaders and members of each Club in the Division. Just this week we were informed, the in District 6, Frontier is the first division to achieve President’s distinguished status. Thank you.

Though we are solidly in the fourth quarter of the TM year; we are not done yet! AGs are working hard on their TO-DO list and encouraging all Clubs to finish strong. More red is bound to disappear from this report in the next few weeks as club members achieve their TM goals. Governors are identifying their successors and working to keep this positive momentum going.

I am honored to work with the Governors and Club Leaders in my Division. They have brought LIFE TO THE WORDS; TOASTMASTERS-WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE!!!!!!

Eastern Division – Clinton Hunt

Eastern Division currently has one area that is distinguished. And 3 more that are close to Distinguished. Area 13 will be distinguished once it achieves one of the two goals (4 more CC or 3 more distinguished clubs). Area 14 will be distinguished once it achieves one of the two goals (1 more CC or 2 more distinguished clubs). Area 15 will be distinguished once it achieved one of the two goals (4 more CC or 3 more distinguished clubs).

Central Division – Kim Redington

Central Division is on fire! Our Area Governors are working hard this year. We had 3 Area’s that have reached Distinguished Status. I want to congratulate, Area 2 Governor Ed Burke, and Area 4 Governor Christopher Skottegard and Area 5 Devlin Shaughnessy. Our other three Areas are fast approaching distinguished status as well.

Our team knows now is not the team to stop working! We are focusing on helping our fellow toastmaster's to be the best they can be, by helping them reach their club goals, individual goals, and team goals!

Look out District. Central Division was a diamond in the rough, but we are being polished to become a Division that is hardworking, dedicated, committed, and determined to see that each toastmaster has the tools they need to be successful!

Adoption of District Budget

District Governor, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, announced the District Budget hard copies have been on display at the hotel for everyone to review. There were no objections. The District Budget was approved as published.

New Business

No new business

Questions:

Frank Meyers: Post the Treasurers report on the website.

Answer: Treasurer will check into this.

Mary Torno: Question to the District to why we are struggling to have a distinguished District.

Answer: Catherine's plan to what tactical plan on the website to unite us. Strengthen to be on-line and visible on sites.

Results from the Ballot count on the electing of officers:

Lieutenant Governor of Marketing:

- Joe Brauer – 76
- Clinton Hunt – 183
- Clinton Hunt is elected as the Lieutenant Governor of Marketing

Frontier Division:

- Garth Anderson – 73
- Daniel Grundtner – 183
- Daniel Grundtner is elected as the Frontier Division Governor

Prairie Division Governor:

- Jon Chalmers – 135
- Rick Holtmeier – 122
- Jon Chalmers is elected as the Prairie Division Governor

Southern Division Governor:

- Rosemary Evers – 84
- Jean Pearson – 174
- Jean Pearson is elected as the Southern Division Governor

Installation of District Officers

Current Region 4 Advisor, Stephen Shaner installed all the new District Officers.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: October 20, 2012, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN (D6 Fall Conference)

International Convention, August 15-18, 2012 Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, Orlando, Florida

George Deliduka: thanks to credential helpers

Frank Meyers: Vikings is celebrating their 50th anniversary

Adjourn at 12:12 pm