

District 6 Toastmasters  
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council  
Spring Conference

May 4, 2013

District Governor, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM

Inspirational Message was given by Area Governor 45, Anandram Seriram

Teresa Fehn, DTM, read the District Mission

Dru Jorgensen welcomed everybody and gave introductory remarks.

Credentials Chair, Sue Koering, DTM, announced the following:

- The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:
- 273 Active Clubs
- There are two votes per club (546)
- 1/3 are needed for a quorum = 182 is required for a quorum
- Votes accounted for: Club votes = 229 and District Officers = 46
- Total votes = 275
- We do have a quorum
- Motion to adopt the credentials reports, Seconded by Stephen Shaner.
- The credentials report was adopted.

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

Dru Jorgensen presented the agenda. The agenda as presented was voted on and adopted.

Dru Jorgensen appointed Margaret Brunner as the Timer. There were no objections.

Dru Jorgensen appointed Terry Ragan and Jay Redington as the Tellers. There were no objections.

District Secretary, Teresa Fehn, DTM, announced that the minutes from the 2012 Spring Conference Business Meeting has been corrected per 2012 Fall Conference Business Meeting. The minutes have been posted at the hotel and on-line at the District 6 website. The 2012 Spring Conference Business meeting minutes were voted on and approved.

District Secretary, Teresa Fehn, DTM, announced that the minutes from the 2012 Fall Conference Business Meeting have been posted at the hotel and on-line at the District 6 website. The 2012 Fall Conference Business meeting minutes were voted on and approved.

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

District Treasurer, Don Rollefson, 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, Jim Miller, DTM, announced that the realignment of the clubs has been on the display at the hotel and on the District 6 website for everyone to review. The posted report is what we will vote on.

#### District 6 Realignment for 2013-2014

The attached Realignment was a computation from all current Division Governors, several past Division Governors, and members of District 6. I want to thank all of them for their input. Not all of their ideas were used but several were.

The purpose of District Realignment is to try to balance out the clubs within divisions and the areas within each division. Club history and relationships with other clubs in their area was considered. District 6 is one of the largest districts within Toastmasters International and thus presents several problems with both distance between clubs and the size of our divisions. I have tried to do that without moving everyone around. I look at this as a continuing process and as we add new clubs changes will be made to areas and divisions.

Here are the changes for Toastmaster Year 2013-2014 by Division.

#### Central Division:

- Appetite For Success Toastmasters - Move from Area 65 to Area 3
- MicroEdge Stutter Stoppers - Add to Area 6

#### Eastern Division:

- Saturday Morning Live – Move from Area 14 to Area 12 - Club Request
- Centennial Toastmasters Club - Add to Area 13
- Tartan Club – Move from Area 71 to Area 16
- Pleasure Speakers – Move from Area 71 to Area 16
- Wind Chimes Club – Move from Area 71 to Area 16
- Discovery Club - Move from Area 71 to Area 16

#### Frontier Division:

- Improv – Add to Area 21 – TBD

#### International Division:

- Zenith City Toastmasters – Add to Area 34

#### Metro Division:

- AECOMradz - Move from Area 43 to Area 41
- The Lacek Group Speakeasy – Move from Area 46 to Area 43
- Butler Exprocessors Club – Move from Area 43 to Area 45
- HGA Speakeasies - Move from Area 46 to Area 45
- Minneapolis Club – Move from Area 45 to Area 46

#### Northern Division:

- TNC Toastmasters – Add to Area 53
- Best Sight Speakers – Move from Area 91 to Area 57

Prairie Division:

- West Central Toastmasters – Add to Area 62

No other changes are being made at this time. I believe that Frontier, Northern, Prairie, and Western will need to be looked at and major realignment will have to be done next year. I propose that a committee be formed to start working on this in July 2013.

These 4 divisions are some of our largest and in Frontiers case it is located in an area that interacts with several divisions.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Questions:

Theo Black: Size of smallest area. 3 clubs have to be put into geography to be combined to another area.

Raymond Norton: Inquiry on Wilbur club being added into a new area.

Jim Miller: Typo on realignment – need to check and confirm. Not changing. Report shows them in Area 65 and it should be Area 62.

Rich Andresen: Another club in 3M is coming aboard soon. Startup club included with Marsh.

Motion #1: I, Daniel Grundtner, move that Dialoggers #2401 be moved from Area 22 to Area 25, both clubs are in the Frontier Division.

- Seconded by Wayne Hanson
- Vote: Favor – All. Opposed – None – Motion passes.

Motion #2: From Jodi Burley: Stutter stoppers currently aligned in Area 6 move to Area 3 Central Division.

- Seconded by Wayne Hanson
- Discussion: Review spreadsheet to see how impacts both areas
  - Eric McBrayer: Currently new club in Area 6.
  - Spread well in Area 6 to help Area 6 and Area 3 Governors. Area 3 has 7 clubs and Area 6 has 4 clubs. Unbalanced division a bit how to rebalance – observation
  - Eric McBrayer: Area 3 has 2 clubs that are suspended with 4 other clubs in the area.
- Vote: Favor – All. Opposed – None – Motion passes.

Realignment report as posted plus amended items per two Motions was voted on and approved.

### **Nominating Committee Chair Report, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM,**

After careful consideration by the Nominating Committee I present to you the list of nominated candidates for the 2013-2014 District 6 Officer Positions.

<i><b>Position</b></i>	<i><b>Name</b></i>
District Governor	Sharon Rollefson
Lt Governor Education and Training	Clinton Hunt
Lt Governor Marketing	Larry Marik
Central Division Governor	Helen Gagoud

Eastern Division Governor	Brad Reuvers
Frontier Division Governor	Garth Andersen
International Division Governor	Greg Scholz
Metro Division Governor	Sandi Robarge
Northern Division Governor	Harold Osmundson
Prairie Division Governor	Ray Norton
Rivers Division Governor	Linda Ruhland
Southern Division Governor	Doug Blakesley
Western Division Governor	Laura Berscheit
Western Division Governor	Ben Smith

Mary Swanson, co-chair, Bob Wagner, Kimberlee Redington, Ravi Rai  
George Kane, David Goldsworthy, Kent Hawks, Jim Kickul, Patrice Pariseau  
Bob Dummer, Kristine Campbell, Brian Hinton, Rich Andresen, Jim Miller  
Terry Ragan, Janet Betz, Jane Rischmiller, Joe Wroblewski

Special Thanks to our committee

Dru Jorgensen asked for any nominations from the floor for District Governor, Lt Governor of Education and Training and Lt Governor of Marketing. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion: The district secretary will cast a single ballot for these non-contested district officers (District Governor, Lt Governor of Education and Training and Lt Governor of Marketing). Motion seconded by Wayne Hanson. The following candidates have been elected for the 2013 – 2014 District Year:

- District Governor – Sharon Rollefson
- Lt Governor of Education and Training – Clintion Hunt
- Lt Governor of Marketing – Larry Marik

Dru Jorgensen asked for any nominations from the floor for Division Governors for Central, Eastern, Frontier, International, Metro, Northern, Prairie, Rivers, and Southern. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion: The district secretary will cast a single ballot for these non-contested district officers (Division Governors for Central, Eastern, Frontier, International, Metro, Northern, Prairie, Rivers, and Southern). Motion seconded by Wayne Hanson. The following candidates have been elected for the 2013 – 2014 District Year:

- Central Division Governor: Helene Gagoud
- Eastern Division Governor: Brad Reuvers
- Frontier Division Governor: Garth Andersen
- International Division Governor: Greg Scholz
- Metro Division Governor: Sandi Robarge
- Northern Division Governor: Harold Osmundson
- Prairie Division Governor: Raymond Norton
- Rivers Division Governor: Linda Ruhland
- Southern Division Governor: Doug Blakesley

Dru Jorgensen asked for any nominations from the floor for Western Division Governor. There were no nominations from the floor. Dru Jorgensen started the 2 minute speeches for each candidate for this contested office (Laura Berscheit and Ben Smith).

## Reports

### District Report was given by District 6 Governor, Dru Jorgensen

To Achieve a Distinguished District:

- Amount of Distinguished Clubs
  - Goal = 112 Clubs to be distinguished
  - Current = 47 distinguished clubs
- Amount of Membership payments
  - Goal = 10891
- Amount of Clubs
  - Goal = 289
  - Current =281

### Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, Sharon Rollefson, gave her report regarding Education and Training:

This year District 6 has continued to be strong in the Area of Education Awards that we have earned. Our report as of the Toastmasters International Website has recorded

365 Competent Communicator Awards

177 Advanced Communicator Awards

282 Competent Leader, Advanced Leader and Distinguished Toastmaster Awards

We have 1609 New Members

We have trained 2845 Club Officers

We have 47 Distinguished Clubs in our District; Our Goal is 112 Distinguished Clubs.

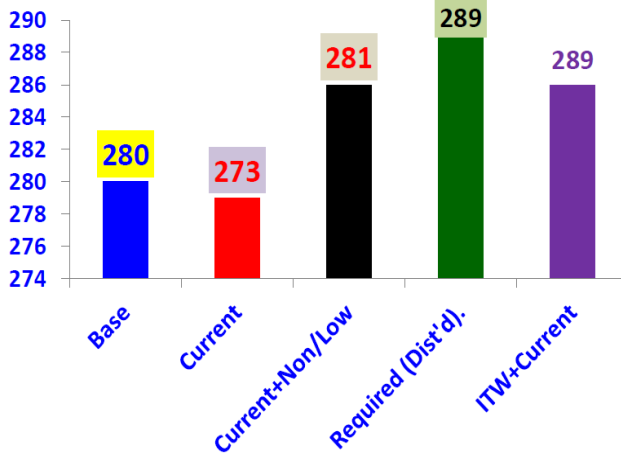
We still have 2 months to go as we continue on to the finish of our Toastmaster Year. I am confident we will finish Strong!

### **District 6 Education and Training Report**

CCs	Add. CCs	ACs	Add. ACs	CL, AL, DTMs	Add. CL, AL, DTMs	New Members	Add. New Members	Off. Trained Round 1	Off. Trained Round 2
281	84	121	56	134	148	943	666	1474	1371
	365		177		282		1609		2845

**Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, Clinton Hunt, DTM provided the following report:**

**I. Club Building**



Division	Area	Club	Charter_Date	Name
M	43	2580419	8/13/2012	AECOMradz
I	34	2657873	8/10/2012	Zenith City Toastmasters
W	91	2717197	9/18/2012	Morning Glory
W	96	2752754	10/1/2012	Happy Hour
N	56	2868598	11/14/2012	Nilfisk-Advance Toastmasters
E	13	2933537	1/7/2013	Centennial Toastmasters Club
N	53	2974231	2/1/2013	TNC Toastmasters
P	65	2987115	2/1/2013	Appetite For Success Toastmasters
C	6	2991813	2/12/2013	MicroEdge Stutter Stoppers
F	22	2534515		Stagecoach Speakers- Shoreview
				Barr Engineering

**II. Two In the System (TI), 27 & 21 respectively**

**III. Kick-Off on 5/3/13 (27 – 30 Applicants)**

**IV. Marketing Team – thanks**

**V. Coaches-Mentors-Sponsors**

- Coaches – 19
- Mentors – 14
- Sponsors – 15

**VI. Kick-Off Helpers – thanks**

**VII. Summary**

- 14 Clubs in the works
- 6-8/14 strong prospects
- Club RETENTION
- Club STRENGTHENING
- GOING DOWN-TO-THE WIRE

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

**Public Relations Spring Contest:** There were 26 submissions for 6 PR contests: Newsletters, Brochures/Flyers, Websites, Social Media, Guest Packets, and Press Releases. The quality was outstanding!

**Metro Chambers:** District 6 has been active in 4 metro area chambers, with PR primarily through advertising and promotion at business expos. Some members have even started a club at one chamber.

Twin Cities North Chamber

Saint Paul Area Chamber

Twin West Chamber

Minneapolis Regional Chamber

**Events:**

Over the year we have had some special events

Darren LaCroix Event in July

Screenings of Speak! (the movie about the Toastmasters International speech contest)

**Upcoming Event:** Toastmasters at the Twins—Sunday, July 21. Twins against the Cleveland Indians (1:10 PM game). We have 101 tickets reserved. Tickets are \$29 plus a \$1 surcharge per order. Ordering on the website will be available soon.

**Social Media:**

Connect with most of our social media through the buttons on the D6 website

**D6 YouTube Channel Created.** We continue to add content, including some speech contest videos, toastmaster testimonial videos and playlists of video contest videos. If you have a Toastmaster Testimonial video, we'd love to add it to our testimonial playlist.

**Video Contest:** There were 5 entrants this year, with a combined 881 visits on Facebook. You can see all 5 videos on the 2013 video contest playlist on our YouTube channel.

**Facebook Fan Page**—up to 213 likes, 45% more than a year ago

**Facebook Group Page (not on d6tm.org)**—up to 218 members, 16% more than a year ago

**LinkedIn Group**—Did you know we have a LinkedIn group—317 members!

**Flickr**—photos from events are posted here

**Many thanks to this year's PRO team:**

Asst. PRO: Brian Rice, Media Communications: Lori Ziebarth, Social Media: Steve Beaman

Events: Lisa Jenks, Speakers Bureau: Randy Haukom, State Fair: Lisa Burnside and Dave Basham

Volunteer Coordinators: Shirley Daniel and Marj Johnson

**Treasurer's Report – Don Rollefson:**

Actual Net 23,104 – because of membership

Actual Income 36,192

Differential since we haven't paid this conference yet.

We are behind with promotions.

**Adoption of the District Budget**

Motion: Adopt the District Budget as posted. Seconded by Jonathan Goosman. District Budget was voted on and adopted.

## **The Division Governors gave their reports:**

### **Central Division Report– Eric McBrayer**

By the numbers:

- 1 club is President's Distinguished
- 4 clubs are Select Distinguished
- 1 club is Distinguished
- 4 clubs have enough members to be distinguished, but not the goals.
  - 1 needs 1 more goal,
  - 1 needs 2 more
  - 1 needs 4 more (but this one just chartered in February)
- 8 clubs have enough goals, but not the membership.

Membership is currently the division's biggest problem.

Central's membership has dropped dramatically since the July 1 base. We've lost 122 members, but only 1 club has been suspended.

By chartering 1 new club in February, we are maintaining our base at 32 clubs.

If we can get these clubs to distinguished status, then Central will be a Select Distinguished Division. Just chartering 1 more club will make us President's Distinguished for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.

Now the bad news:

1 club, though not suspended, has not sent in dues yet. This is due to some reorganizing. Area 5 governor has been in contact with that club's organizer. Our club contact is working on a regrouping to revive that club.

With 2 months left in the Toastmaster year, it's still a possibility. Several clubs have conducted Speech-craft sessions. Others have expanded their online presence with [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com). Promotion is happening across the board.

Distinguished is still possible, and we are still in this game

### **Eastern Division Governor – Jean McAllister**

60% distinguished clubs – expect to be president's distinguished by the end of the year

### **Frontier Division Governor – Dan Grundtner**

Frontier is home to Charlie the Tuna. I enjoyed the contest last night, how about you. Madam District Governor and fellow toastmasters, I have good news and I have bad news. I will start with the bad news. We are down 60 members this pay period about 12%. I have been skating through this year as the last time we gotten together the membership was above the base of 439 people. I am embarrassed Madam Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training because there are only 25 CC's submitted to TI less than the number of clubs in the Division. I cannot understand why because I have for a fact that clubs are doing manual speeches and we are promoting the CL manual for education. We have got our work cut out for us these last two months.

There is good news in Frontier. To combat the loss of members we have clubs innovating new ideas. Dave Basham is working diligently with the Improv club. Medtox is experimenting with the "express" meeting format where they meet for 30 minutes. The first time they tried it there were 2 times as



many people show up as usual. Honeywell Astros has been losing members and is telecommuting visitors in form their Coon Rapids campus. We do have a number of clubs that are distinguished: MN Retired Peace Corps Volunteers TM is President Distinguished which is my area Governor, Mary Adams and my home club White bear TM is Presidents Distinguished which is Area governor Dave Basham;s and Laurie Richardson's home club. King of Clubs is President's Distinguished which has the notability of being Home Club to two people I hold in high esteem, Duane Rivard and AT one time my father Joe Grundtner. Lastly, Checkmasters is distinguished which is home club of my Area Governor Brain Nordling and your incoming Frontier Division Governor, Garth Andersen.

We have many more clubs on the verge of being distinguished; they just have to submit their awards. That is my report Madam District Governor.

### **International Division Governor – Sue McCoy**

Membership! Membership! Membership! We need members in International Division. With all the snow up North, are people hibernating?

Of the 14 active clubs in International Division, 2 currently are Select Distinguished (Allete & Zenith City clubs). Both of these clubs have at least 20 members. Both have the potential to reach Presidents Distinguished status by June 30th.

Of the remaining 12 clubs, we have 6 low hanging fruit; Clubs that are so close...but not quite there yet. All need a net gain of 5 members to be distinguished or GREATER.

One of these clubs needs just 1 more member (Silver Tongues). The other 5 have their work cut out for them; they need members! One of these has the points earned on the DCP plan to be Presidents Distinguished if they can get membership back up (Harborview) – perhaps collect dues? This needs more investigation.

Two clubs need to pay their dues (Area 33) and they have been encouraged and reminded several times to submit it.

We still have 2 months to go before the end of the Toastmaster year. Plans for a Speech Craft are underway to be held at Essentia Health in Duluth, MN. A room has been secured for this as well as brainstorming ideas for advertising is underway. The thaw is here. They won't hibernate forever!

### **Metro Division Report– Glen deGuzman**

In Metro Division, we are still shooting for President's Distinguished Division.

Metro Division is composed of 33 clubs in Downtown Minneapolis.

We already have a net growth of one club. Yesterday morning, we had a kickoff meeting in Periscope. Periscope is a full-spectrum impact Agency in Downtown Minneapolis. 26 employees attended the kickoff meeting. If this club charters this year, we will have a net growth of 2 clubs in Metro Division.

We need at least 16 distinguished clubs to be President's Distinguished. To date, we currently have 7 Distinguished Clubs. 4 Clubs currently have 4 DCP Points. 5 clubs have 5 or more DCP Points but will need additional new members.

We are now preparing also for the future. We submitted our proposal for realignment. This is to optimize the distribution and proximity in Metro Areas. 6 Toastmasters also expressed interest in serving as Area Governor. They were already invited on the May 18 turnover meeting in Savage MN.

Our Area 43 Governor, Jill Marcinkowski, is organizing a Networking event in The Local in Downtown Minneapolis on June 7, at 4 to 6 pm. We invite everybody to this event. This is good opportunity to network and celebrate the success of this year's accomplishments.

It was a great successful year in Metro Division.

### **Northern Division Report– Colbert Fong**

Thanks to all the clubs in the Northern Division and Area Governors.

Thanks to Marvel Kummel too for helping with training.

12 magnificent seven clubs having 7 officers trained. All clubs got at least 4 club officers trained.

213 new members

2 new clubs and not loss of a club

10 more distinguished clubs to get President Distinguished District

### **Prairie Division Report– Jon Chalmers (presented by Anne Groetsch)**

The lingering winter has been hard on the prairie, with late snows delaying spring growth. Overall we've seen a 20% decline in membership following spring renewals, which has taken many clubs out of the running for DCP. While some of this can be attributed to procrastinators, the bulk of it is people leaving the clubs. We've seen over 60% of our membership leave during the course of the year.

The issue isn't finding new members; we've done great there, with 121 new members to date. The problem is retaining the members we have. The general feeling is that life changes are mainly to blame; people losing jobs, moving, domestic changes, and other disruptive events. It's hard to overcome someone moving, but there are other situations that seem simply an excuse to leave Toastmasters.

My challenge to everyone then is this: put as much effort into retaining your members as you put into finding new ones. Make sure you know what your members expect to get out of Toastmasters and that your club is providing the support they need to get it. While it's possible fill a leaky bucket by pouring in more water than you're losing, it's a lot less wasteful to just fix the leaks. Let's all work to plug the leaks in our clubs.

### **Rivers Division Report– Laurie Buchberger**

Stillwater Toastmaster Club – low membership – inviting ALCO orators

Maximizers – 5 members – Scott Miller back in town – get up the 14 members by June 30. Everyone is happy.

### **Southern Division Report– Jean Pearson**

Travel is necessary - 2 Distinguished Areas and 1 select Distinguished Area. One Club may be lost with one club that is suspended due to dues. The area is strong due to one new club. Most likely we will have more educational awards.

## **Western Division Report – Colleen Hamilton**

The Western Division has faced some unexpected challenges in the past couple months but our area governors have their shoulders to the wheel working with their clubs to help them pull out those final new members and education awards by the end of the year.

We lost a club unexpectedly in March due to a corporate move which caused two clubs to join forces. Yet, we have submitted charter paperwork for a new club at Barr Engineering, so we remain even on the number of clubs overall leaving us eligible to make distinguished status.

We have 9 distinguished clubs: 1 President's Distinguished; 5 Select Distinguished; 3 Distinguished. Another 9 clubs are close to being able to be distinguished, either needing a couple more members or a couple more points. There is still time to move the needle.

Of the 7 areas, we have 5 that have a good shot at distinction and it is our hope to achieve Select Distinguished status as a Division.

We have been trying a variety of tactics to grow membership and educational awards in the division. We sent a mailing out to businesses in the Opus Center business park to promote the open clubs in that center and especially an Open House for Noontime Talkers.

H2O masters sponsored a networking event to promote their club.

Super Communicators hosted their first ever Speech-a-thon to allow some transitioning members to complete their CCs.

Two clubs sponsored our Division contest and were promoted at that event.

We were able to get CC awards filed for a club which is at a crossroads in deciding whether or not to keep their charter.

Tonka Talkers will celebrate their 35th anniversary next Tuesday with an Open House event.

Regardless of where we end the year, I am proud of the division and the hard work the members, club leaders, and area governors have put in this year.

**Election Results:** Results from the Ballot count for the Western Division Governor:

Western Division Governor:

- Individual Votes - 206
- Laura Berscheit – 119
- Ben Smith – 141
- Ben Smith is elected as the 2013-2014 Western Division Governor

**Installation of District Officers:** Immediate Past District Governor Catherine Rai Cardenuto installed all the new District Officers.

**New Business:** No new business discussed

Adjourn at 12:59 pm