

District 6 Toastmasters
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council
Spring Convention
May 3, 2014

District Governor, Sharon Rollefson, DTM, called the meeting to order at 11:04.

Inspirational Message was given by Jennifer Rittenhouse.

Nancy Hobbs, DTM, read the District Mission

Sharon Rollefson welcomed everybody and gave introductory remarks.

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

- The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:
- 267 Active Clubs
- There are two votes per club 1/3 are needed for a quorum = 88 clubs is required for a quorum
- Votes accounted for: Club votes = 110 clubs and District Officers
- We do have a quorum
- The report was seconded by Joan Estenson
- The credentials report was adopted.

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

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

Sharon Rollefson appointed Margaret Brunner, DTM as the Timer. There were no objections.

Sharon Rollefson appointed Don Rollefson and Ravi Rai as the Tellers. There were no objections.

District Secretary, Nancy Hobbs, DTM, announced that the minutes from the 2013 Fall Conference Business Meeting have been posted at the hotel, and have been posted to the District 6 website. There were no corrections. 2013 Spring Convention Business and the 2013 Fall Conference did not have any noted corrections and were adopted as posted. (point of order)

Auditor, Medard Kaisershot, DTM, 3 members on the audit committee. Moved to adopted the auditor's report. The report was voted on and adopted as presented.

District Treasurer, Eric Mcbrayer, announced that the treasurer's report has been on display at the hotel for everyone to review. Move that the treasurer's report be adopted, hearing none the treasurer's report was adopted. The treasurer's report, filed subject to audit.

Realignment Chair, Jim Miller, DTM, announced that the realignment of the clubs has been on the display at the hotel and for everyone to review. He announced this year's realignment report will be brief. With the addition of Heather Hegi to the committee we were able to get maps of the district showing all the divisions and areas and how they interact with each other. It was decided that this year we will be spent in two years,

1. An education process will be presented to the district to inform them of the placement of areas and showing how they are interspersed and the need for a major realignment
2. That the district form a task force whose members should be current and immediate past division governors. The task force will work on a realignment of the entire district. This realignment should focus on what is best for all members and clubs. Where ever possible to move entire areas rather than individual clubs. This task force will look at the size of our divisions and try to even them out when possible.

The task force will give a report in the form of an educational session at the fall conference in Rochester, with a final report and proposal being presented at the 2015 Spring Convention.

The following are the changes proposed for the Toastmaster Year 2014-2015.

All the areas in Rivers Division should be renumber starting at 71-75.

Realignment		Current		Club	Charter Date	Status	Name
Division	Area	Division	Area				
M	44	R	73	3356690	7/29/2013	ACTIVE	Yomari Stars
P	64	P	64	3406456	8/12/2013	ACTIVE	3M Hutchinson Toastmasters Club
C	6	C	6	3572204	10/29/2013	ACTIVE	Stagecoach Speakers-Bloomington MN
N	56	N	56	3584407	11/1/2013	ACTIVE	Pumpnickle Toastmasters
F	25	F	23	3845032	4/1/2014	ACTIVE	Chattermasters
C	2	C	2	3868906	4/1/2014	ACTIVE	Return To Words
E	16	E	16	3890627	4/16/2014	ACTIVE	ECMC EduSpeakers
F	23	E	12	9196		ACTIVE	Saturday Morning Live
C	3	W	92	xxxxx		ACTIVE	The Speak Nerdy to Me
W	95	C	6	1739479	7/12/2013	ACTIVE	Bloomin' Toasters
M	42	M	44	3256142	6/3/2013	ACTIVE	Impression Makers

It was announced that a large proposal of changes is planned for next year. Total of 11 changes proposed by Realignment Chairs. Correction that area 95 is Western. Correction of area of SML to currently 12. Accepting of realignment as corrected.

Helene Gagoud was recognized. Requesting rebalancing to Central Division by adding an additional area to assist. Seconded by Bill Nelson. No objections will proceed as recommended.

The following clubs are to be part of the new Area 7:

- Realtors TM Club 2512
- Luncheon Linguists Club 4611

Richfield Legion Club 232
Result Communicators 2280031

Ben Smith was recognized. Moring Glory, Club 2717197 from 91 to 95.
Moved. Seconded by Bill Nelson. No discussion. No objections. Approved as amendment.

Now vote on realignment as amended. The chair recognized Michael Browne. Proposal to move Impression Makers Club from current alignment proposal from M44 to M42 to from M44 to M41.

Sandi Robarge was recognized by the chair. Potential loss of two clubs in Area 41. She supports moving to Area 41 of club 3256142, Impression Makers. Seconded by Bill Nelson.

Approved as amended.

Seconded by Jonathan Goossen. Voted on and approved. Report approved as amended.

The posted report is what we will vote on.

Task Force Question for Next year: (Issue laid to rest)

Now of on the question of the task force. Realignment of the entire district over the next year.
Seconded by Bill Nelson. Desire to include current and immediate past Division Governors and any additional interested individuals.

The chair recognized Jon Chalmers. Questioning how this will impact specific divisions.

Bill Nelson, amendment that the District Governor would appoint the chair and additional members of the task force for the realignment of District 6.

Michael Browne seconded.

Chair recognized Kent Hawks. Clarification if the DG would appoint

Chair recognized Kim Windingland.

Chair recognized Bill Nelson, who stated that the purpose to expedite the appointment of chair.

Chair recognized Lucy Berg. Stated DG is on all committees.

Chair recognized Jim Rhodes, suggested a smaller size than the 20 plus members.

Voting on the admendment to point the chair and additional members. The amendment was voted on and approved.

The chair recognized Erik McBrayer, questioning size of current and immediate past division Governors.

Chair recognized Kent Hawks. Moved to amend to that the committee be made of six members of the pool of 20.

Seconded by Erik McBrayer

Chair recognized George Kane, who expressed concerns that not all Divisions would be equally represented.

Chair recognized Bill Johnson. He raised opposition to the six.

Chair recognized Rick Holtmeier. Moved to lay the issue on the table.

Seconded by Jon Chalmers.

Approved to lay issue to rest.

Nominating Committee Chair Report, Dru Jorgensen, DTM

Madam District Governor, fellow toastmasters and honored guests -
The Nominating Committee submits the following candidates for office in 2014-2015.

Position	Name	Club Name	Club#
District Governor	Clinton Hunt,DTM	Escalate	01224471
Lt Governor Education and Training	Larry Marik, DTM	Money Talks	1101383
Lt Governor Marketing	Diane Windingland, DTM	Power Talk	1746748
Division Governors			
Central	Annette Peterson	Bloomin Toasters	1739479
Easternor	Jonathan Goossen, DTM	Woodwinds	2919
Frontier	Mary Adams, DTM	MNRPCV (Minnesota Return Peace Corp)	1284
International	Open		
Metro	Michael Browne	Roller Toasters	4216
Northern	Gary Kivi	Happy Talkers	5172
Prairie	Deb Luu	Midday Mumbler	1000
Rivers	Ruth Alliband, DTM	MNRPCV	1284
Southern	Ernie Stone	Hiawatha Valley	205
Western	Steve Bujarski	Carsonics	6393

Special thanks to our committee: Anandram Seriram, Anita Hoffman, Colleen Hamilton, Don Mathews, Frank Zabel, Jon Chalmers, Maureen Mady, Sue McCoy

The chair recognized Sue McCoy. Nominated Greg Scholz for International Division Governor. Greg Scholz accepted the nomination. No further nominations were made.

Sharon Rollefson 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. Bill Nelson, moved to elected all unopposed offices.

Announcement of elected offices:

The following candidates have been elected for the 2014 – 2015 District Year:

- District Governor – Clinton Hunt
- Lt Governor of Education and Training – Larry Marik
- Lt Governor of Marketing – Diane Windingland
- Central Division Governor: Annette Peterson
- Eastern Division Governor: Jonathan Goossen
- Frontier Division Governor: Mary Adams
- International Division Governor: Greg Scholz
- Metro Division Governor: Michael Browne
- Northern Division Governor: Gary Kivi
- Prairie Division Governor: Deb Luu
- Rivers Division Governor: Ruth Alliband
- Southern Division Governor: Ernie Stone

- Western Division Governor: Steve Bujarski

Approval of all unopposed offices.

Officers Reports:

District Report was given by District 6 Governor, Sharon Rollefson

To Achieve a Distinguished District:

- Amount of Distinguished Clubs
 - Goal = 116 Clubs to be distinguished
 - Current = 60 distinguished clubs
- Amount of Membership payments
 - Goal = 11,283
 - Current = 10,268
- Amount of Clubs
 - Goal = 299
 - Current = 267

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

(I.) Educational Awards Tracking (4/2/14)

Awards	Number
CCs	401
CLs	183
ACs	169
ALs	118
HPLs	21
DTMs	17
TCs	40
Total Awards	909

(II.) DCP Tracking (5/2/14)

DCP Points	Number w/Membership	% of Goal for DD
Distinguished Clubs	60	21%
>5 points	142 Clubs	
4 Points + 20 members	6 Clubs	
4 Points + 19 members	3 Clubs	
4 Points + 17 members	3 clubs	
4 Points + 16 members	6 Clubs	
Clubs with 4 Points	18	

(III.) Tools To Use

- (1.) **Beat The Clock**
- (2.) **Meetup.com**
- (3.) **Speechcraft**
- (4.) **Youth Leadership Program**

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

Seven Clubs have been charter with three additional clubs in the works. Roughly 9 more clubs are needed to be distinguished.

Welcome to our new clubs:

- Yomari Stars
- 3M Hutchison Toastmasters Club
- Stagecoach Speakers- Bloomington, MN
- Pumpnickel Toastmasters
- Chattermasters
- Return to Words
- ECMC EduSpeakers

Kick off meetings continue. Please outreach with any new club leads you may have.

Clubs with 8 or less members:

Division	Area	Club Number	Club Name	Active Members
R	72	2919	Woodwinds Club	3
M	46	2509	Speak Up And Out Club	4
S	83	490	Plain-ly Speaking	7
S	84	1181	Bluff Country Toastmasters Club	7

Club Base is 290 clubs, current club count is 267.

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

Review of the PR contest results

Need to target different market sites.

Eric McBrayer, Treasurer provided his report. Trade shows display board was requested and approval has been received.

Nancy Hobbs, Secretary provided her report.

The Division Governors gave their reports:

Central Division Report– Helene Gagoud

What a great year for the central division this is! With 6 talented Area Governors and 34 wonderful clubs, at just eight weeks away from the end of the year, we already have seven clubs that are distinguished! This is fantastic!

I invite all other clubs to join them on the podium. Together we can do it!

Using a golf analogy, the hard work has been done and we are on the green, a few feet away from the hole. 10 months of speeches have been delivered. 10 months of roles have been held. Numerous and great speech contests have taken place. Rich with all this experience, the hole is completely in sight for 99% of the clubs in Central. We only need two or three skilled short puts to win the game! We can do it!

The main challenge for The Central Division to be President Distinguished is to increase membership to ensure we have strong clubs that can provide the best environment for our members to develop their communication and leadership skills.

I am currently visiting all clubs that need a bit of encouragement to promote 3 ideas:

1- let's invite our co-workers and friends to our clubs. We know this is, by far, the most effective way to attract new members.

2- I am also offering free and tailored signage to be posted outside our meeting rooms, when we meet, and inside conference rooms where we have captive audiences attempting to do what we learn to do best: communicate effectively and be leaders!

3- I am also offering the possibility to run short 4 week Speechcraft to create some interest for Toastmasters in the community.

Together, with all the ideas generated by the club members, we can do it! I have no doubt that we will finish strong and that we will leave to the next wave of leaders to be elected or appointed strong clubs that they will then continue to strengthen!

Central Division, let's finish strong, let's finish President Distinguished!

Eastern Division Governor – Brad Reuvers

The Eastern Division has achieved 30 Competent Communicator Awards, 21 Advanced Communication Awards, 19 Competent Leader Awards.

Eastern Division currently has 3 Distinguished Clubs and 1 Select Distinguished.

Currently Eastern Division has numerous clubs working on building their membership base in order to finish the year as Distinguished. The division is doing what it takes to finish strong.

Frontier Division Governor – Garth Andersen (presented by Judi Holloway and Jay Redington)

Judi: The Frontier Division just...

Jay hurries in from the side of the room to where Judi is standing and interrupts her.

Jay: Excuse, where am I?

Judi: Earth!! (*Turns back toward the group*)

Jay: I know that but what is going on at this place.

Judi: It's the spring Toastmasters Conference and I was just about to tell everyone about what great things the Frontier Division is doing when you interrupted me.

Jay: I'm on the Frontier? Wow! I'm really lost. I wanted to be on the Prairie. I was following some speaking superheroes when I lost track of where I was.

Judi: Don't worry no matter where you are in District 6 Toastmaster superheroes are everywhere. For example the Frontier Division just finished the Tall Tales and International speech contests. The winners are competing this weekend! They are the superheroes you will want to hear.

Jay: That is great! In fact I attended those Frontier Division contests and heard all of those great speeches. Contests are a lot of fun and a great way to showcase your speaking ability. However, I'm looking for clubs that are becoming distinguished.

Judi: Well you are in luck now that the contests are over we are focusing on finishing strong by helping clubs get distinguished. We need superheroes to do that.

Jay: I heard that all the Frontier Area governors are touching base with all of the clubs to find out how they can finish strong and become distinguished. Does that mean I'm a superhero?

Judi: It does! Keep up the super work. The Frontier Division already has 6 clubs that are distinguished and we are reaching out to those clubs who are close to being distinguished. We also are working with the low member clubs to help them find ways to increase membership.

Jay: Sounds like a busy time on the Frontier.

Judi: It's not just busy on the Frontier but throughout the Toastmaster land we call District 6.

Jay: Sounds like fun. I'm going to make sure I do my Superhero part to see the Frontier and the District finish strong and distinguished. Thank you Frontier Division sage.

International Division Governor – Grege Scholz

- Select Distinguished Already (2 of 12)
 - Allete Power Chord
 - Zenith City
- Challenges
 - Membership continues to be the challenge
 - We have a couple of clubs who would be distinguished but have not met their membership requirements.
 - Educational Awards
 - We have three more clubs that need strong focus on completing their educational awards.
 - There is a tendency for clubs give up working on education awards when they see they are short on membership.
 - One club has base membership that is too low to meet the new guideline.
 - Area 33
 - Three lost clubs in Area 33
 - Quad Cities Club - Suspended March '14
 - Mid Range Club
 - Itasca Club
 - Gained the Northern Lights Toastmasters Club
 - Recently announced they wish to go public
- Here's what we're doing
 - Open Houses
 - Membership contests
 - Club Leads
 - Thunder Bay
 - 1 charter paperwork ready
 - Grand Marais (1 lead)
 - Duluth (1 corporate club) - with a lead on a second.

Metro Division Report– Sandi Robarge

34 club that began the year, 3 suspended

One distinguished club, Area 47, thank you Christina

10 clubs without the membership to be distinguished but have achieved the other goals

Membership continues to be a focus in the Division

Northern Division Report– Harold Osmundson

It has been an honor to serve the clubs and members of the Northern Division this year. It's a pleasure to be surrounded by the quality clubs, enthusiastic members, and strong leaders in this division. These are the key elements that make the Northern Division so strong. And I sincerely thank the division team: The 7 Area Governors and Training Coordinator who selflessly served this year. Thank you.

It has been a busy 2014 for the division. We were very active in club officer training, fighting the severe winter weather the entire training round. It wasn't easy, but 39 of the 40 clubs had the minimum of 4 officers trained, and 27 clubs earned the district's Magnificent 7 award. Congratulations to those 27 clubs. We also had a great round of area speech contests, and a snowy, yet successful division speech contest on April 16th (everyone will remember that day!). Thanks to the members and the division team for making these activities so successful.

The Northern Division started the year with a base of 39 clubs, and then gained a new club to reach 40. After the recent round of membership renewals, the division currently has 38 clubs paid through September 30th, and 1 more club that just reached 8 paid members. Unfortunately, the division will lose a club this round as one club decided to discontinue. While club loss might be undesirable, this result is better for the members since they're now with stronger clubs. In sum, the Northern Division will finish the year with at least its base of 39 clubs.

In terms of membership, the division is currently at 89% of its base membership. Steadily, we're seeing that gap shrink as existing members renew, and guests become new members. It's exciting to see the clubs grow and get closer to Distinguished Club recognition. We're so close, let's finish strong!

Speaking of the Distinguished Club Program (DCP), the Northern Division currently has 12 clubs that achieved Distinguished or better. That number will grow. A few clubs are waiting for those last educational awards to be completed, while another 7-8 clubs will achieve Distinguished or better once they gain 2-3 more members. We should see 20 or more clubs Distinguished. That's the level needed for a President's Distinguished division. If we're fortunate to gain a new club in the next 2 months, the Northern Division will be President's Distinguished.

With 2 months left in the year, membership is still the challenge. Yet, each club can meet its membership goals, through a variety of methods. However, despite all the new tools available, it's critical to remember that so many potential members are all around us. They are in our everyday lives, where we have our strongest connections and greatest influence. Whether we're searching for a new job, or growing our Toastmasters club, there's more than enough opportunity in our first 1-2 degrees of separation. We just need to reach out to those in our lives and introduce them to what's worked so well for us. As the founder of Toastmasters, Dr. Ralph Smedley said, "Let us share with others the benefits we have gained for ourselves."

It has been a pleasure serving this year. Now, let's help each other grow, and let's each help our own club(s) grow.

Prairie Division Report– Raymond Norton

Area 61:

Paul Bunyan TM Club 6 goals met need 1 new or paid member

Humorous TM Club 5 goals met need 6 new or paid members

Cout of Towners 4 goals met need 5 new or paid members

Area 62:

Daylighters Club 7 goals met need 7 new or paid members

Creative Memories In TI Suspension

St. Cloud VA Club They are "Distinguished"

Area 63:

Rogers TM Club 4 goals met need 5 new or paid members

Stagecoach Speakers-RCIS 5 goals met 0 pd members-need 20 paid members (they might have sent a check to TI)

Elk River Area TM Club 6 goals net need 8 new or paid members

Area 64:

Hutchinson TM II 7 goals met need 6 new or paid members

New Ulm Club 5 goals met need 6 new or paid members

Tri-County TM 5 goals met need 6 new or paid members

3M Hutchinson TM Club 3 goals met need 4 new or paid members

12 West 0 (In Suspension)

Area 65:

Jim Hand TM Club 4 goals met need 7 new or paid members

SW Tale Weavers 4 goals met need 1 new or paid member

Schwan Effortless Delivery Club 3 goals met need 11 new or paid members

West Central TM 2 goals met need 7 new or paid members

Area 66:

Midday Mumbler 9 goals met need 3 new or paid members

Speakers Under Pressure 4 goals met need 6 new or paid members

Carver County Communicators 4 goals met need 7 new or paid members

Sea Speakers (They are "Distinguished")

Ziegler Enterprise 4 goals met need 7 new or paid members

Rivers Division Report– Linda Ruhland

96% meet membership base

92% are paid

24% of clubs are distinguished

80% are either distinguished or one point away from being distinguished.

Southern Division Report– Doug Blakesley

Southern Division report as of May 1: The Southern is Strong but we have a lot to do to end this Toastmaster year as “Distinguished” or better.

Net Club Loss

We lost a club at the beginning of the year. However, we have Toastmasters working diligently holding demonstration meetings and talking to community leaders in the towns of Austin, Cannon Falls, and Northfield.

Low Membership

As of May 1^{s, t} 3 clubs with less than 8 members

Distinguished Clubs

As of May 1st only 3 clubs are “Distinguished” or better

However, a “Distinguished” Division is still within reach. Looking at Club DCPs on the TMI webpage with 4 or more goals already achieved 10 clubs will reach this success measure if they build their membership by 4 or more members as follows.

2 clubs need only one new member

2 clubs need only two new members

3 clubs need only three new members

3 clubs need only four new members

All obtainable.

Noteworthy

Sponsors assigned to clubs with low membership

Newer club member volunteered to host contest in Area without an Area Governor

Toastmasters from clubs with lower membership helping with club “open houses” and Area contest

Members of one club that has never had members participate in a speech contest – agreeing to come and compete at the Area level thanks to the encouragement provided by the Area Governor

Western Division Report – Ben Smith

10 clubs that are distinguished

19 clubs with educational awards but do not have the membership base

Invite one person once a week in eight weeks if 50% join

Challenge to invite one new person per week to Toastmasters

Let’s finish strong and end this year distinguished

Motion to adopt the district budget was approved.

Nominating Committee Chair, Dru Jorgensen, DTM, installed new officers.

Dru Jorgensen installed the elected and appointed officers for the 2014-2015 year:

- Central Division Governor: Annette Peterson
- Eastern Division Governor: Jonathan Goossen
- Frontier Division Governor: Mary Adams
- International Division Governor: Greg Scholz
- Metro Division Governor: Michael Browne
- Northern Division Governor: Gary Kivi
- Prairie Division Governor: Deb Luu
- Rivers Division Governor: Ruth Alliband
- Southern Division Governor: Ernie Stone
- Western Division Governor: Steve Bujarski

Appointment of the following officers:

- Nancy Hobbs, District Secretary
- Eric McBrayer, Treasurer
- Ravi Rai, Public Relations Officer

District Leadership

- Clinton Hunt, District 6 Governor 2014-2015
- Larry Marik, Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training 2014-2015
- Diane Wingdingland, Lieutenant Governor of Marketing

New Business: Rich Andresen

Motion that the ruling is out of order as TI

Appeal the ruling of the chair

Christina Stensbury was recognized, can not comment on a motion until it's been seconded.

No other new business

Announcement:

Stephen Shaner, announced the changes with the Toastmaster International education program will be delayed until mid 2015.

Clinton Hunt, announcements: Lunch, Planery Session

Adjourn at 12:55 (CST) by Sharon Rollefson