



# District 54 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

*Saturday, June 21, 2025*

**Hybrid Meeting**

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## **OPENING**

Gary Vaughn, District Director, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and facilitated the meeting. Dan Kyburz, DTM, Immediate Past District Director, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **WELCOME**

Wendy Pesavento, DTM, Program Quality Director, welcomed members and expressed appreciation for their efforts in helping the district achieve Distinguished status this Toastmasters year.

## **INSPIRATION**

Sherri DeLeonardis, DTM, Area 32 Director, shared the “Cracked Pot” story to inspire members to appreciate people in their lives and to value them for who they truly are.

## **OUR DISTRICT VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES**

Estelle Foster, Club Growth Director, read the District Vision, Mission and Core Values.

### **District Vision**

To restore and maintain a dynamic community of 50 clubs, with at least 40% achieving Distinguished status or higher, empowering members in communication and leadership.

### **District Mission**

We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

### **District Core Values**

We strive to adhere to the following values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Service
- Excellence

## **DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

| <b>Present</b> | <b>First</b> | <b>Last</b> | <b>Designation</b> | <b>OFFICE</b>                    |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>X</b>       | Gary         | Vaughn      | EH3                | DISTRICT DIRECTOR                |
| <b>X</b>       | Wendy        | Pesavento   | DTM                | PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR         |
| <b>X</b>       | Estelle      | Foster      | VC5                | CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR             |
| <b>X</b>       | Prince       | Motiani     | DTM                | PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER         |
| <b>X</b>       | Ching-Yuan   | Su          | EH3                | ADMINISTRATION MANAGER           |
| <b>X</b>       | Jason        | Heissler    | DTM                | FINANCE MANAGER                  |
| <b>X</b>       | Dan          | Kyburz      | DTM                | IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR |
|                | Maryanne     | Reichelt    | DTM                | LOGISTICS MANAGER, NV            |
| <b>X</b>       | Troy         | LaPorte     | LD2                | DIVISION A DIRECTOR              |
|                | Venkat       | Chander     | TC1                | DIVISION B DIRECTOR              |
| <b>X</b>       | Rosemary     | Nash        | LD4                | DIVISION C DIRECTOR              |

|   |         |               |     |                     |
|---|---------|---------------|-----|---------------------|
| X | Ken     | Kocher        | PM3 | DIVISION D DIRECTOR |
|   | Cece    | Wroblewski    | DTM | AREA 10 DIRECTOR    |
| X | Mimi    | Mieritz       | PI2 | AREA 11 DIRECTOR    |
| X | Chris   | Kostelec      | MS3 | AREA 12 DIRECTOR    |
| X | Dawn    | Weber         | DL1 | AREA 20 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Julia   | Issa-Ghantous | PM1 | AREA 21 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Anne    | Warth         | DL4 | AREA 22 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Dionne  | Moore         | CC  | AREA 30 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Grey    | Adkisson      | PM1 | AREA 31 DIRECTOR    |
| X | Sherri  | Deleonardis   | DTM | AREA 32 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Katie   | Jandeska      | SR1 | AREA 40 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Valerie | Heckman       | DL1 | AREA 41 DIRECTOR    |
|   | Kashaun | Parker        | PM3 | AREA 42 DIRECTOR    |

14 voting members were present, meeting the quorum requirement of 12. Therefore, a quorum was established for the meeting.

### ***ADOPTION OF AGENDA***

Gary Vaughn, District Director, proposed a change to the meeting agenda. A motion to approve the change, made by Prince Motiani, DTM, Public Relations Manager, was seconded by Sherri DeLeonardis, DTM, Area 32 Director. The amended agenda was then adopted.

### ***ADMINISTRATION MANAGER***

Ching Yuan Su, Administration Manager, provided a summary of the April meeting minutes. The full minutes are available on the district website.

### ***FINANCE MANAGER***

Jason Heissler, DTM, Finance Manager, presented the Finance Report. A written copy is attached for reference.

- As of May 31, 2025, the district reserve account balance is \$24,753.94, and the checking account balance is \$6,074.43.
- Year-to-date membership revenue totals \$22,975.00, and year-to-date district expenses are \$23,244.34, including \$9,918.50 attributed to reserve relocation.
- The annual District Conference was a success, drawing over 100 attendees and remaining on budget.



FM Report June  
2025.pdf

## **Division Reports**

The written reports were submitted by the directors, and the verbal reports were presented in the order indicated.

### ***DIVISION A***

Troy LaPorte, Division A Director, presented the Division A report, with a written copy attached.

- Thanks to the dedication of the Area Directors, 100% of club visits were completed.
- Rockford Communications and Timely Talkers have achieved Distinguished status, and Fox River and Fox Valley have both earned President's Distinguished recognition.
- In the coming year, areas and clubs will focus on membership building.



Division A Report  
June 2025.pdf

### ***DIVISION B***

Venkat Chander, Division B Director, was unable to attend the meeting.

### ***DIVISION C***

Rosemary Nash, Division C Director, presented the Division C report, with a written copy attached.

- Five clubs have met Distinguished goals.
- Ten clubs have added four or more new members to their membership.
- Both Area 32 and Division C have achieved Select Distinguished status.



Division C Report  
June 2025.pdf

### ***DIVISION D***

Ken Kocher, Division D Director, presented the Division D report, with a written copy attached.

- Five clubs have achieved Distinguished status or higher, and Division D has been recognized as a Distinguished Division.
- Key City is just one member away from earning Distinguished recognition, while Joliet Jesters' membership has grown to 14 members.
- The newly reinstated Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce club held its first official meeting on May 28. A Club Coach may be needed for this club in the coming year.



Division D Report  
June 2025.pdf

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER**

Prince Motiani, DTM, Public Relations Manager, presented the Public Relations report.

- Announcements in the Dispatch and on social media may have helped attract attendees to district events
- Quotes, Word of the Day, and tips in the Dispatch are intended to help members conduct club meetings and prepare speeches.
- The group was encouraged to focus on member retention.
- Gary's strong support paved the way for this year's success in public relations.

District 54 page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/d54tm>

District 54 group on Facebook: <https://www..com/groups/498728804348481>

District 54 website link: <https://d54tm.com/>

District 54 on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/76960127>

District 54 Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCShur7LY30JSNyBcXsl0tXg>

## **CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR**

Estelle Foster, Club Growth Director, presented her report. A written copy is attached for reference.

- Savant Wealth is currently working on their paperwork, while ALDI Inc. and Christian Brothers Services have either completed or submitted theirs.
- Ninety percent of the Area Directors' club visits and reports have been completed.
- Many members were recognized for their volunteer efforts in advancing the district's goals for growth.



CGD Report June  
2025.pdf

## **PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR**

Wendy Pesavento, Program Quality Director, presented her report. A written copy is attached for reference.

- District leadership opportunities available for 2025-2026 include positions on the Club Extension Committee, the Club Retention Committee, and the roles of Conference Co-Chairs.
- The dates and locations for the Summer TLI training sessions are available on the district website.
- To enhance Toastmasters education, Club Vice Presidents Education will be encouraged to add a 3-minute "Educational Corner" segment in each club meeting.



PQD Report June  
2025.pdf

## ***DISTRICT DIRECTOR***

Gary Vaughn, District Director, delivered his report.

- Members were thanked for their perseverance and hard work in achieving the district's vision for this Toastmasters year.
- With the restoration of the Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce and Quad City Easy Speakers clubs, the district now has a total of 50 clubs.
- As of today, 41% of the district's clubs have achieved Distinguished status or higher.

## ***OLD BUSINESS***

- *None*

## ***OPEN DISCUSSION/Q&A***

- Gary Vaughn shared that the district has been recognized by Toastmasters International for its member retention effort over the past 2 years.
- Prince Motiani would be happy to offer help, support, and advice to any member in need.
- Carol Loser inquired about next year's DEC meetings. Wendy Pesavento responded that DEC meetings will be held primarily online, with three sessions open to in-person participation.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

- *None*

## ***CLOSING THOUGHT***

Chris Kostelec, Area 12 Director, encouraged members to take time to reflect on their accomplishments achieved so far and to continue striving for excellence.

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

With no objections, Gary Vaughn, District Director, officially adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ching Yuan Su  
District 54 Administration Manager, 2024-2025