



District 54 Council Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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OPENING

Maryann Reichelt, DTM, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. She led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME

Gary Vaughn, District Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He facilitated the District 54 Council Meeting.

INSPIRATION

Bonnie Tippey, DTM, shared the poem “Desiderata” by Max Ehrmann.

OUR DISTRICT VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES

The reading of Our Vision and District Mission was led by Troy LaPorte, Division A Director.

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 core values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Service
- Excellence

DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Present	First	Last	Designation	OFFICE
X	GARY	VAUGHN	EH3	DISTRICT DIRECTOR
X	WENDY	PESAVENTO	DTM	PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR
	ESTELLE	FOSTER	VC5	CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR
X	PRINCE	MOTIANI	DTM	PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
X	CHING-YUAN	SU	EH3	ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
X	JASON	HEISSLER	DTM	FINANCE MANAGER
X	DAN	KYBURZ	DTM	IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR
X	MARYANN	REICHEL	DTM	LOGISTICS MANAGER, NV
X	TROY	LAPORTE	LD2	DIVISION A DIRECTOR
X	VANKAT	CHANDER	TC1	DIVISION B DIRECTOR
X	ROSEMARY	NASH	LD4	DIVISION C DIRECTOR

X	KEN	KOCHER	PM3	DIVISION D DIRECTOR
X	CECE	WROBLEWSKI	DTM	AREA 10 DIRECTOR
X	MIMI	MIERITZ	PI2	AREA 11 DIRECTOR
X	CHRIS	KOSTELEC	MS2	AREA 12 DIRECTOR
X	DAWN	WEBER	DL1	AREA 20 DIRECTOR
	JULIA	ISSA-GHANTOUS	PM1	AREA 21 DIRECTOR
X	ANN	WARTH	DL4	AREA 22 DIRECTOR
				AREA 30 DIRECTOR
X	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
				AREA 42 DIRECTOR

16 Voting DEC members present.

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Gary Vaughn, District Director, reviewed the meeting agenda, which was then adopted as posted.

VOTING PROCEDURES & SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

Jon Greiner, DTM, District Parliamentarian, reviewed voting procedures.

Special rules are available on the district website.

- Unanimous consent may be used to adopt a motion or take action without a vote if there is no apparent opposition.

Special Rules of Order

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT & QUORUM CERTIFICATION

Bonnie Tippey, DTM, Committee Chair, gave the credentials committee report.

- District 54 currently has 47 paid clubs
 - Each club receives 2 votes - one for the President and one for the Vice President Education
- Potential total vote count is 94.
- A quorum requires the attendance of one-third of the president and vice presidents education, which amounts to 32 attendees.
- There are 63 Presidents and Vice Presidents of Education eligible to vote. A quorum has been achieved.
- There are 16 District Executive Committee members in attendance.
- With 63 registered voters eligible to vote, a quorum is confirmed.
- A total of 63 ballots are present and eligible for voting. If all ballots are cast, a simple majority would be 32.

Without objection, the motion to adopt the Credentials Committee report was approved by unanimous consent.



APRIL DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

Ching Yuan Su, District Administration Manager, read a summary of the meeting minutes. The minutes and related documents are available for review on the district website.

No corrections were noted, and the minutes were accepted as read.

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gary Vaughn, District Director, presented the following two officers for the 2024-25 term:

Area 30 Director
Area 42 Director

Dionne Moore
Kashaun Parker

Without objection, the motion made by Prince Motiana to approve these appointments and seconded by Noel Ganay was accepted by unanimous consent.

DISTRICT SUCCESS PLAN

Gary Vaughn, District Director, asked if there were any questions or objections regarding the District Success Plan, which had been made available for review on the district website prior to the meeting.

Without objection, the motion made by Sherri Deleonardis to approve the plan and seconded by Heather Blase was accepted by unanimous consent.

DISTRICT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Jason Heissler, DTM, Finance Manager, provided a brief overview of the 2024-25 district budget, now available on the district website.

- The membership revenue allocation for this year is \$19.908.
- The Conference Committee is planning an in-person conference with a budget aimed at achieving net zero expenses.
- Marketing efforts will focus on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.
- Club growth initiatives will target prison, community and corporate clubs.
- Lodging expenses exceed the policy maximum but have been approved by Toastmasters International.

The budget was accepted as presented with unanimous consent.

YEAR-END AUDIT REPORT

Elias Hayes, DTM, Audit Committee Chair, presented the district year-end Audit report. The Audit was conducted by Louis Kreppert, Helen Dotson, and Elias Hayes. All transactions from January through June 2024 were correctly executed, and all funds were properly used to

support Toastmasters mission. Two Recommendations were made to improve accuracy and streamline the audit procedure. Without objection, the report was accepted as presented.



Audit_202408.pdf

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING REPRESENTATIVE

Gary Vaughn, District Director, introduced Bonnie Tippey, DTM, as the district representative for the District Restructuring Committee and addressed related questions.

Without objection, Bonnie Tippey was confirmed as the representative.

FINANCE MANAGER REPORT

Jason Heissler, DTM, Finance Manager presented the monthly Treasurer's report. As of August 31, the district reserve account balance is \$25,150.90, while the checking account balance is \$2,920.74. The July P&L statement is attached for review.

- The year-end audit, certificate page, and narrative have been submitted to Toastmasters International.
- The draft budget has been approved by Toastmasters International.

Without objection, the report was accepted as presented.



FM Report Council
Sept 2024.pdf

Division Reports

The Division reports were not presented during the meeting; however, written reports were submitted and posted on the district website for review.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Prince Motiani, DTM, Public Relations Manager, is currently in the transition stage.

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

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

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

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

District 54 on UTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3ei1dohTDg>

CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR

Jon Greiner, DTM, presented the report on behalf of Estelle Foster, Club Growth Director. The written report is attached.

- The district is currently seeking a Club Extension Chair. The job description is available on the district website.
- All members are encouraged to continue building new clubs this year.
- Joliet Jesters and Caterpillar Mapleton Risers have memberships of 8 and 10, respectively.
- Tom Willison is actively encouraging Constellation Nuclear to begin meetings.
- The meeting between the Prison Club Team and the Catholic Joliet Diocese was positive, and a nonbinding proposal has been forwarded to the diocese for review.
- The Marketing Plan for this Toastmasters year will be submitted before its deadline.



CGD Report
September 2024.pdf

PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR

Wendy Pesavento, DTM, Program Quality Director, gave the Program Quality Director's report. The report is attached.

- Dick Poirier, DTM, will lead an online session to prepare for the Base Camp outage in October.
- Over 75% of club officers were trained during the Summer TLIs.
- By September 30, 92% of Division and Area Directors will have completed training. The next training session begins on September 21.
- Volunteers are needed to support Winter TLIs. Please consider serving as a committee chair or member.
- Christina Evans will facilitate a training session for Division and Area Directors in November, and Noel Ganay, DTM, will facilitate a speech contest training session for club officers in early December. All training sessions will be recorded and uploaded to the district YouTube channel.
- Maryann Reichelt, DTM and District Speechcraft Coordinator, will host a Pathway training session on September 26, from 7 to 8:30 pm. The Zoom link is available in the District Dispatch or on the district website.



PQD Report
September 2024.pdf

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Gary Vaughn, District Director, presented the District Director's report. The report is attached.

- The district restructuring process will not affect club operations, allowing members to continue pursuing their goals without interruption.
- Changes to Pathways are forthcoming. Please attend Dick's presentation or Maryann's Pathway Support, and contact Wendy for additional questions.

- Club officers, Area Directors, and Division Director are encouraged to remind members of the upcoming membership renewal deadline.
- A total of 55 new members have joined so far for this Toastmasters year. Area Directors and Division Directors are encouraged to send congratulatory emails to clubs that have gained new members.
- Final thoughts: The District team is dedicated to doing what we can in the best interests of our members.



DD Report -
September DEC.pdf

OLD BUSINESS

- No old business.

OPEN DISCUSSION / Q&A

- Dick Poirier's September 30 online session is open to all. The announcement will be sent out via email and posted on the district website.
- Dick encouraged members to explore new club opportunities in surrounding communities, businesses, and churches.
- Dan Kyburz added that new club opportunities can also be found in city government offices.
- Wendy Pesavento reported that she is not receiving the District Dispatch. Gary Vaughn responded that he will see if the document can be posted to the district website. Bonnie Tippey suggested checking computer or email settings to ensure the document is not being blocked.
- Prince Motiani suggested helping members prepare a 30-90 second pitch to highlight the immediate benefits of the Toastmasters program.
- Wendy reminded everyone that the membership-building program, the +1 initiative, is ongoing.
- Gary explained the rationale behind the district budget allocation for renting a local storage unit to house district properties.
- Wendy inquired about the preparation for the Hall of Fame event. Dan responded that nominations are still ongoing. After the winners are announced, Gary, Wendy, and Dan will send out email invitations for the celebration ceremony and meal on October 26. Dan will finalize the headcount so Wendy can order the award pins.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business presented.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Sherri Deleonardis, DTM, Area 32 Director, shared Paulo Coelho's story, "The Lesson of the Butterfly." She emphasized that challenges and difficulties are necessary for growth and development.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary Vaughn, District Director, adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.

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