



District 54 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Virtual Meeting

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPENING.....	3
WELCOME.....	3
INSPIRATION	3
OUR DISTRICT VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES.....	3
ROLL CALL/QUORUM CERTIFICATION	3/4
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	4
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER	4
DIVISION A.....	4
DIVISION B.....	5
FINANCE MANAGER	5
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER.....	6
CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR.....	6
PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR.....	6
DISTRICT DIRECTOR	7
OLD BUSINESS.....	7
OPEN DISCUSSION/Q&A	7
NEW BUSINESS.....	7
CLOSING THOUGHT	7/8

OPENING

Call to order Dan Kyburz, 10 am. There was a brief 'pause' for connectivity issues at Uptown Grille.

WELCOME

Wendy Pesavento opened the meeting welcoming everyone

INSPIRATION

Bonnie Tippey - In ten days, District 54 will move into our memories. We certainly had a wondrous ride. We have been successful with the numbers and been both Distinguished and Select Distinguished. We have also received numerous other awards. We are the home district for a Past International President and at least two Past International Directors. We have been a forward thinking and moving district for many years.

I am sharing this with you because while we may feel sad about the district 54 door closing and the end of this era, we are stepping through a new door and into a new district. We will always have our time here in District 54. Take these memories and lessons learned and hold them close to your heart. Share them with your new district. Make new memories and new friends.

Inspiration – June 20th

OUR DISTRICT VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES

Dan Kyburz, 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

Present	First	Last	Designation	OFFICE
X	Wendy	Pesavento	DTM	DISTRICT DIRECTOR
X	Estelle	Foster	VC5	PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR
X	Chris	Kostelec	MS5	CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR
	Karen	Walch	SR5	PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
X	Maryann	Reichelt	DTM	ADMINISTRATION MANAGER-temp

X	Elias	Hayes	PM2	FINANCE MANAGER
	Gary	Vaughn	EH5	IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR
X	Dan	Kyburz	DTM	LOGISTICS MANAGER
X	Troy	LaPorte	LD2	DIVISION A DIRECTOR
X	Kari	Susairaj	DL2	DIVISION B DIRECTOR
	Rachel	Berry	DL5	AREA 10 DIRECTOR
	Varad	Chancheepuram	DL5	AREA 11 DIRECTOR
	Jim	Dickson	DTM	AREA 12 DIRECTOR

X	Tony	Harden	ID2	AREA 13 DIRECTOR
	Stephen	Enteman	PM4	AREA 14 DIRECTOR
	Linda	Ehman	PM4	AREA 20 DIRECTOR
X	Carol	Loser	DTM	AREA 21 DIRECTOR
X	Anne	Warth	DL4	AREA 22 DIRECTOR
X	Ken	Sours	IP4	AREA 23 DIRECTOR
X	Jason	Heissler	DTM	AREA 24 DIRECTOR

9 district officers with voting rights were present, not meeting the quorum requirement of 10. Therefore, a quorum was not established for the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Changes/additions to the agenda: No changes needed to be made. Agenda adopted since there were no objections.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Maryann Reichelt read a summary of the May 30th Dec meeting minutes.

Wendy Pesavento asked for any additions or corrections. Hearing none the minutes were approved unanimously.

May 30th DEC minutes

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 his report](#)

Division A concludes the 2025-2026 program year with a balanced view of progress and challenge. Membership declined across most clubs and DCP performance softened, yet the Division maintained strong administrative consistency and produced several standout club achievements.

Reported on:

- Membership overview
- DCP status
- Education and program quality
- Club administration and compliance
- Success stories and standout clubs
- Challenges
- Action plan / Next steps

Division A enters the 2026-2027 Toastmasters year with a strong core of high-performing clubs, committed leaders, and a clear direction. With focused support and strategic engagement, the Division is well-positioned to regain momentum and thrive as its clubs transition into Districts 211 and 212.

DIVISION B

[Kari Susairaj, Division B Director presented her report](#)

Reported on:

- Division accomplishments
- Updates on Areas 20 - 24
- Division Director Notes

With about a week left in the Toastmasters year, Division B has 39% of clubs Distinguished. 2 clubs are not in good standing and risk suspension at the next renewal cycle. Overall, the Division has made progress this year with multiple clubs having incredible growth including Mapleton Risers, Pioneer Club, State Farm Windjammers, State Farm Talk of the South, Pimiteoui, Forging Leaders, RLI, and Progressively Speaking.

This year has seen several challenges but the Area Directors did a fantastic job supporting the clubs and the district! We have momentum built up in quite a few clubs that will carry over into Districts 211 or 212. We will continue to focus on member retention, member growth, and supporting clubs in all aspects.

Finance Manager Report

[Elias Hayes presented his report](#)

District Reserve Statement – as of date: 05/31/26

The reserve account balance is \$14,252.28. We had a membership revenue of \$320.00 and had \$4,806.23 in expenses.

* Minimum District Reserve Required at Year End: \$5,843.13

Bank Statement – as of date: 05/31/26

The checking account balance is \$10,408.86. \$1,450.00 in Conference Ticket and Sponsor revenue.

For the conference, we exceeded the original budget by \$201.20, but thanks to our amazing sponsorship chair achieving over \$2000+ in sponsorship revenue we ended the conference with \$1773.80 in total revenue from the Conference. We spent a total of \$1023.57 in food and meal, lodging, travel expenses for the past international president to attend the conference. We had the recurring \$40 charge for storage.

Public Relations Manager

Karen Walch - Public Relations Manager

It has been an honor to work with a team of dedicated Toastmasters this year to serve as your public relations manager in this final year of District 54.

I would like to thank Gary Vaughn and Dick Poirer for all their hard work on the District 54 website and social media outlets.

I would also like to thank Lori Creighton for serving as our newsletter content creator this year. Her creativity was infectious and I certainly appreciated having her as a feedback partner throughout the year!

Finally, I would like to thank all those members and district officers who submitted articles and news to really make our publications not only for, but of the district!

District 54, it has been another great year! I can't wait to hear all the great things you do as you continue into Districts 211 and 212 next year!

Club Growth Manager

Chris Kostelec – Club Growth director, Wendy Pesavento presented his report

General News

We are on our way to being distinguished. Any help the district can provide to your club please contact Chris Kostelec, d54clubgrowth@gmail.com or one of the trio members if interested.

Club Extension Report

We are continuing to advertise and look for opportunities to form new clubs in District 54. Any possible leads please forward to d54clubgrowth@gmail.com.

Club Retention Report – Tom Willison, DTM, PDG

Now is the time to focus on the DCP and your clubs goals. If there is any way we can help your club as a district do not hesitate to reach out to d54clubgrowth@gmail.com.

Program Quality Director

Estelle Foster, Program Quality Director, presented her report

Round 2 of the Area Director Visits is complete. We wanted to get 100% of the clubs visited during the round. We achieved 96%, which is super exciting!!

We had 16 members complete educational levels in May! Congratulations to all for making progress towards your goals. To celebrate their achievements, I used a random name picker to select a winner from the list of names. The winner for May is Nathaniel Martin from Bridge Builders Club for completing Level 1 in Engaging Humor! Congratulations Terrence!

I would like to take the rest of my time to send a huge thank you to those who have helped me this year as the D54 CGD.

Let's continue working towards our goals to make 2025-2026 a year to remember!
Focus on keeping the main thing, the district mission is the main thing.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Wendy Pesavento, the District Director, presented her report

- Use the D54 Dashboard to show the 'road to Distinguished'
 - 22 Clubs need to be Distinguished
 - 15 Clubs are currently Distinguished or better
 - 7 more clubs needed to become Distinguished within the next 10 days for the District to become Distinguished
- Gave us a Call to Action for clubs close to becoming Distinguished or better
 - Confident Communicators 1 member
 - Talk of the Town 1 member
 - Dekalb TM 2 members
 - Astounding Communicators 1 member
 - CBS 2 Educational goals
 - Delightful Greeters 2 members
- Let us know clubs that need three more members to attain their DCP level
 - Rock On!
 - Rockford Communication League
 - Savant Wealth Management
 - Fox Valley Toastmasters
 - John Deere Toastmasters
- Let us know that two clubs need a few more members to become an Active club
- Thanked ALL the members for their hard work this final year as D54.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought to the floor

OPEN DISCUSSION/Q&A

None

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

CLOSING THOUGHT

Jon Greiner - Take a moment to reflect on where we are in the journey of District 54.

As we come to the close of this final District Executive Committee meeting, we find ourselves at a unique moment in our history. Today is not simply the end of a meeting. It is the closing chapter of District 54 as we have known it.

For years, District 54 has been much more than lines on a map or an organizational structure. It has been a community of leaders, mentors, speakers, and friends. It has been a place where members discovered confidence, clubs found support, and countless volunteers stepped forward to serve something larger than themselves.

Each of us has played a role in that story. Together we have built a legacy measured not by awards or reports, but by lives changed. Every club chartered, every officer trained, every speech delivered, every

member encouraged—these are the true accomplishments of District 54.

Change is rarely easy, even when it is necessary. As District 54 joins with neighboring districts to form a larger district, it is natural to feel a sense of nostalgia.

Yet, while the District name may change, the values that brought us together do not. The spirit of service, leadership, learning, and personal growth that defined District 54 will continue in the new organization.

Today, let us take pride in what we have accomplished together. Let us celebrate the remarkable history of District 54 and express gratitude to every leader, club officer, member, and volunteer who helped make this district successful.

As one chapter closes, another begins. The future District will be stronger because of the foundation District 54 helped build. Our responsibility now is to carry forward the best of our past while embracing the opportunities ahead.

While we may be concluding the final District 54 Executive Committee meeting, the impact of District 54 does not end here. Its legacy will continue through every member whose life was changed because we chose to serve.

Thank you, and farewell to District 54. May its legacy inspire us for many years to come.

Closing Thought: Jon Greiner

ADJOURNMENT

Wendy Pesavento closed out the meeting with a motion to adjourn and a second. Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryann Reichelt

District 54 Administration Manager(temp), 2025-2026