



District 54 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 21st, 2026

Virtual Meeting

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OPENING

Call to order Dan Kyburz, 9am

WELCOME

Estelle Foster opened the meeting welcoming everyone

INSPIRATION

Rosemary Nash - Leading as successful leaders. There should be a plan in place that can be shared with others. You need to be able to make difficult decisions, but with dignity and empathy. And of course communicate what is going on and why. Bring calmness and support the team in times of change.

OUR DISTRICT VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES

Estelle Foster, 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
	Wendy	Pesavento	DTM	DISTRICT DIRECTOR
X	Estelle	Foster	VC5	PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR
X	Chris	Kostelec	MS5	CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR
X	Karen	Walch	SR5	PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
X	Rosemary	Nash	LD4	ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
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
X	Varad	Chancheepuram	DL5	AREA 11 DIRECTOR
X	Jim	Dickson	DTM	AREA 12 DIRECTOR

X	Tony	Harden	LD2	AREA 13 DIRECTOR
X	Stephen	Enteman	PM4	AREA 14 DIRECTOR
	Linda	Ehman	PM4	AREA 20 DIRECTOR
	Carol	Loser	DTM	AREA 21 DIRECTOR
	Ann	Warth	DL4	AREA 22 DIRECTOR
X	Ken	Sours	IP4	AREA 23 DIRECTOR
X	Jason	Heissler	DTM	AREA 24 DIRECTOR

14 district officers members were present, meeting the quorum requirement of 10. Therefore, a quorum was established for the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Changes/additions to the agenda: Rosemary will give the inspiration, and Estelle Foster filling in for Wendy Pesavento.

Closing thought will be given by Karen Walch - PRM.

Agenda has been adopted with these changes

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Rosemary Nash, Administration Manager, provided a summary of the February 21 meeting minutes. The full minutes are available on the district website.

Dan Kyburz motion to accept, and seconded by Chris Kostelc

All-in favor to pass the minutes. Minutes were accepted

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

- Thanking his Area directors for the contests completed for the Areas.
- Area 10 & 11 officers met the training goals, where all clubs completed office training
- Area 13 call out, growth 13 new members this year Lincoln-Way leading the way, they have 34 members.
- Memberships for some clubs struggling, net growth was 1 for Division A.
- Making sure clubs are reminded of the dues due end of March
- Focus on the club visits by May 31st deadline
- Next weekend, Division contest (March 28th), still looking for support for the contest, judges.
- District conference been promoting that at the clubs (April 24th)
- Events: Rock on! club has open house May 4th . Toast of the fox, open house May 5th, guest speaker Martina Mathisen, who recently won a story telling contest in Illinois
- 10 yr celebration in September for the Rockford Communications club.



Division A March
Monthly Report.pdf

DIVISION B

Kari Susairaj, Division B Director presented her report

- 10 clubs have 5 or 6 goals completed, which is about half.
- Between February & March 20 new members added in Division B.
- Area 20 having the most struggles.
 - ADM Toastmasters club has decided not to renew membership.
 - 2 clubs have interim presidents (Fireside & Toast of Champaign)
- Area 21: RLI has five goals, waiting on more members to meet the DCP.
 - Forging Leaders look to be distinguished status with 6 goals met
 - Carol Loser Area director has all reports done
- Area 22:
 - Progressively Speaking club is trying to maintain minimum 8 members.
 - Mapleton risers, added 10 members up to charter strength
- Area 23:
 - 3 clubs at charter strength
 - Kenneth Sours Area reports are all done
- Area 24
 - Jason Heissler Area visits are being scheduled
 - 2 clubs at charter strength

43% Division B visit reports done

Area contests completed!

Division B contest April 11th at 2pm. Venue- American Legion Hall

Astounding Communicators & Power Communicators held a joint open house on February 24

RLI table tents in cafeteria to invite people to attend meetings

Area 21&22 plan on having a combined end of year picnic

Area 24 Delightful Greeters volunteered at a local food bank



Division B Report
March 2026.docx

Finance Manager Report

Elia Hayes presented his report

- \$655 membership revenue
- 1,156.74 expenses in January.
- 40\$ admin fee for storage rental
- There were additional Shipping costs for educational awards (\$19.35)
- Month of February, based on the district reserve TLI will be taking more money back, \$8288.29.

Move to accept the finance report. Karen Walch accepted, seconded by Jason Heissler
Report accepted



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Public Relations Manager

Karen Walch - Public Relations Manager

- Bi-monthly publications, 1st of the month is the newsletter
- On time, sending a whole day early each month.
- Has received some contest submission details from members
- April 6th newsletter, including the due dates for the next submission in there. Call to include good news of your own club. Something to share with the district

Club Growth Manager

Chris Kostelec – Club Growth director, presented his report

- Current 1,277 member payments, up 200+ member payments from last month
- Reminding us now is the time to focus on submitting the clubs we have.
- A lot to be celebrated in our changes



CGD Report March
2026.docx

Program Quality Director

Estelle Foster, Program Quality Director, presented her report

- Ticket prices going up on the conference now
- Only seeing 22% reports completed so far from Area directors
- 14 members completed education goals in February
- Winner for the moth was Steve Varacro from New Lennox Toastmasters, who completed his DTM!



D54 PQD
21Mar2026.pdf

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Wendy Pesavento, the District Director was not present and was not able to send her report to Estelle Foster.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought to the floor

OPEN DISCUSSION/Q&A

None

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

CLOSING THOUGHT

Karen Walch – change is natural, and it happens, it is necessary. Shared a story with us: The Great oak in the forest. D54 has stood like the great oak tree. Weathered storms, developed a canopy, sheltered many leaders.

Then there comes a time when the tree seeds can no longer keep to themselves. Wind comes and takes the seeds, the oak tree doesn't see as a loss, but rather seeding the future. We end up transforming the entire landscape, like the tree seeds.

We are overflowing with strength, taking D54m what we have built, to our new districts. Look at it as the legacy in motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Estelle Foster – PQD closed out the meeting

With Dan Kyburz motion to close the meeting and Karen Walch second.

With no objections, meeting was adjourned 9:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Nash

District 54 Administration Manager, 2025-2026