



District 54 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 17th 2026

Virtual Meeting

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OPENING

Call to order Dan Kyburz, 9am

WELCOME

Wendy Pesavento opened the meeting welcoming everyone

INSPIRATION

Wendy - Met a guest who was a part of Toastmasters 15yrs ago. The woman had regretted not coming back earlier. She missed the connections and chance to work on herself.

OUR DISTRICT VISION, MISSION and CORE VALUES

Estelle Foster PQD, 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
X	Karen	Walch	SR5	PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
X	Rosemary	Nash	LD4	ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
X	Elias	Hayes	PM2	FINANCE MANAGER
X	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
X	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
X	Carol	Loser	DTM	AREA 21 DIRECTOR
X	Ann	Warth	DL4	AREA 22 DIRECTOR
X	Ken	Sours	IP4	AREA 23 DIRECTOR
	Jason	Heissler	DTM	AREA 24 DIRECTOR

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda has been adopted, no corrections or changes were noted.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Rosemary Nash, Administration Manager, provided a summary of the December 20th meeting minutes. The full minutes are available on the district website.

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

- Area 13 exceeding their membership goals (23 new members)
- Educational goals expecting to be picked up in a couple months
- Area contests: Area 13 March 7th , Area 10&14 combined possibly March 14th
- Had a meeting with his area directors.
- March 28th. 10am. Division speech contest
- Some clubs have already met the TLI Winter trainings.



Division A January
2026 Report.pdf

DIVISION B

Kari Susairaj Division B Director presented her report

- 14 new members across Div B (Dec/Jan)
- Clubs are getting some DCP goals. State Farm Talk of the South has the 5 DCP goals met, as long as they keep membership up.
- 3 clubs have 4+ members trained.

- State Farm Oaks, having a Jan 22nd holiday party at Pizza Ranch.
- Progressively Speaking at risk of being suspended.
- Area directors working on their visits. Try to get those in before speech contests begin
- Met as a division council, talked about speech contests
- Area 21&22, Feb 28th – all positions for the speech contest has been filled
- March 7th 20,23,24 – location American Legion Hall – still working on getting functionaries filled
- Division B- Saturday, April 11



Finance Manager Report

Elias Hayes presented his finance manager report

- As of Nov 30th:
 - Reserve account: 27,632.50
 - Membership revenue 250\$
 - \$583.42 expenses for month of Nov.
 - Hall of fame: 1,341.31 expenses paid for that.
 - November Membership revenue: \$124.02

Dan Kyburz moved to accept the finance report

Seconded by Karen Walch

Report accepted



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Public Relations Manager

Karen Walch - Public Relations Manager

- Last month change to the monthly newsletter was including the submission deadlines
- Talked about District trio plans for communications, alternate topics to communicate with the district
- Jan 23rd deadline for the February district dispatch

Club Growth Manager

Chris Kostelec – Club Growth director, presented his report

- Membership 964 paid members
- Mid-year training call out
- Looking for end of year testimonials



CGD Report
January 2026.docx

Program Quality Director

Estelle Foster, Program Quality Director, presented her report

- Club officers training has begun
- TLI North Jan 24th at New Life Church in New Lenox
- TLI South Jan 31st in Bloomington
- Speech contest info needs to be posted still to D54
- Budget: 40\$ for Area contest and 75\$ for Division Contest
- Annual conference Posh Banquet center in Joliet, IL. There is a hotel part of this conference building you can book.
- 7 members completed an educational level – Winner Michael Maloney Key City Toastmasters club



D54 PQD
17Jan2026.pdf

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Wendy Pesavento, District Director, provided her report.

- Shared 2024-2025 District status vs 2025-2026
- Action plan for 2026:
 - New Club opportunities
 - Retain members
 - Add members
 - Pathways educational goals
 - Club officers trained

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought to the floor

OPEN DISCUSSION/Q&A

Bonnie Tippey (DTM) – alignment update, district committee chair for 211 and 212

Opportunity to help the districts that will be part of 211 and 212.

On the D54 TM website there is a call for district leader nominations

District 25 having a beta training session Jan 26th for any members to join to get your trainings.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

CLOSING THOUGHT

Gary Vaughn – immediate past District director

Mid point get a clear view of everything. You can see where we started 6 months ago
A lot of will stop looking at possibilities and look at the realities of what will happen in June.
The DCP is not about numbers, it's about a human/ member story about them achieving their goals.

Don't give in to the mid-year slump. Look at what is exciting for the next 6 months

ADJOURNMENT

Wendy Pesavento closed out the meeting 10:05 am.

With no objections,

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Nash

District 54 Administration Manager, 2025-2026