

Toastmasters District 54
Division C Director's Report
April 27, 2024

Contests

I was honored to serve as Chief Judge last weekend for our well-attended District 54 International and Table Topics contests. I was happy to see and hear so many contestants. Excellent speeches... I'm sure the judges had some difficult decisions to make. Thanks again to the anonymous Judges, Timers, and Ballot Counters.

As we start to look ahead to next years' contests, let's encourage our areas and divisions to begin planning further in advance as we make our way back to in-person contests. Aspects such as location, printed programs, travel time, etc. will take more time and planning than we are used to in the virtual world.

Area 30, 31, 32 Club Visits

We are in the midst of our second round of club visits:

Area 30 – the visits and reports have been completed.

Area 31 – only one visit remains. The remaining 4 reports are in progress.

Area 32 – 2 club visits completed and 2 scheduled.

Division C Club News

In Area 30, big shout out to the ADM Toastmasters club. This club has already reached Presidents Distinguished! All education awards plus more have been achieved. There are a solid 26 members though membership has dropped slightly over the beginning of the year after the club made a conscious decision to let a few member go who had zero attendance. I envision a special session on Corporate Club success tip and hits...

The ADM City Center Club has a solid 26 members and is now meeting twice a month. However, they do **not** have any educational awards in the books. The Area Director is working with the club to encourage members to log the projects right away into base camp. Another concern this club has is that the far majority of their members live in Kentucky. This will negatively impact their ability to participate in contests and in-person TLIs.

Last month I told you about the Ameren Corporate club called "Electric Toast". As part of across-the-board cost-cutting measures, Ameren has stopped paying for Toastmaster dues membership. District Leadership met with the President and discussed a few options such as switching to a community club, having members join another club that meets virtually, or having members pay their own dues and continue meeting. In the end, it appeared that there was not enough enthusiasm with the few remaining club members to do any of these things. The Area

Director has spoken to one member recently who says that the situation is still up in the air and she may not know any more until October.

In Area 31, the majority of the State Farm clubs are doing well with strong membership numbers and some educational awards. Speakeasy seems to be struggling but I am not aware if they have reached out for a club coach.

In Area 32, there is a member who moved to another state but remains active in a couple clubs via hybrid meetings. This member was here in person last week so there were some celebrations. All clubs in Area 32 all seem to be struggling with membership. Without meeting the membership goals, a club cannot reach Distinguished. Delightful Greeters changed membership qualifications in order to make membership easier. We are wondering if Division C will participate in the Memorial Day Parade, Labor Day Parade, or any other Bloomington/Normal community events such as Job Fair or Farmers Market.

Respectfully yours,

Christina Evans,
Division C Director

Rosemary Nash, Area 30 Director
Jerry Burger, Area 31 Director
Kristina Warren Area 32 Director