



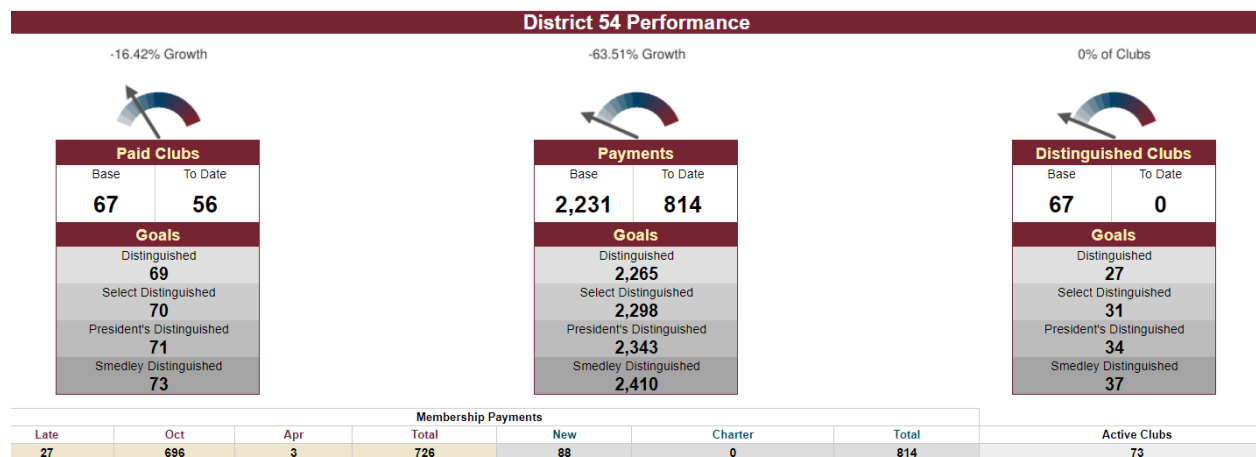
# District Director Report

Bala Sreedharan, District Director  
December 19, 2020- District Executive Committee Meeting

## Main Talking Points

- District Midyear Performance Summary and Current State
- District 54 focus and priorities
- Toastmasters International Updates and due dates

## District 54 Performance Summary and Current State (18 December 2020)



Good news! 3 clubs, **Quad Cities Easy Speakers**, **Caterpillar Employees club**, and **Sunrise Speakers** have added members since last month to get to 8 members

The 17 Unpaid (<8 paid members) Clubs including 6 clubs not in base are below. **How many of these clubs are likely to finish the year with 8 or more members?**

| Div | Area | Club Name                | Club Status | Mem Base | Active Members |
|-----|------|--------------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|
| A   | 10   | Rockford Club            | Active      | 8        | 0              |
| A   | 11   | AGWN Voices Toastmasters | Active      | 16       | 0              |
| B   | 20   | Hilltop Toaster Club     | Active      | 9        | 7              |

|   |    |   |            |    |   |
|---|----|---|------------|----|---|
| B | 20 | Yash Toastmasters Club                            | Ineligible | 1  | 0 |
| B | 20 | Deere 13th Communicators                          | Active     | 12 | 7 |
| B | 21 | Lincoln-Douglas Club                              | Ineligible | 0  | 0 |
| B | 21 | Prairieland Toastmasters Club                     | Active     | 10 | 7 |
| B | 22 | Quad Cities Nuclear Power Speakers                | Active     | 22 | 0 |
| C | 30 | Riverfront Club                                   | Ineligible | 7  | 0 |
| C | 32 | Pekin Insurance Toastmasters                      | Ineligible | 4  | 0 |
| D | 42 | State Farm Summit Talks Club                      | Active     | 8  | 0 |
| D | 43 | College of Business Club                          | Active     | 16 | 7 |
| E | 51 | Morris Area Toastmasters Club                     | Active     | 9  | 7 |
| E | 51 | Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters | Ineligible | 0  | 0 |
| E | 52 | Lincoln Trails Club                               | Low        | 5  | 5 |
| E | 52 | GSI Toastmasters                                  | Active     | 8  | 6 |
| E | 52 | Illini Toastmasters                               | Active     | 15 | 0 |

## **Area/Division Directors – Training, Success Plans, Club Visits**

1. **Division and Area Director Training: 100%.** 16 of 16 area directors and 5 of 5 division directors were trained in June before the start of the year. 85% must be trained to satisfy the qualifying requirement of the distinguished district program. We exceeded it!
2. **Area Director Club Visit Reports: 97%.** Great news! 15 of the 16 areas have met or exceeded club visit reports submission requirements before the November 30 deadline. A total of 65 reports were submitted which is 97% of the 67 clubs in base. This is an outstanding accomplishment. Thank you, area directors, for making this happen. Why does this matter?

Part of the district's mission is to ensure every club fulfills its responsibilities to its members. To achieve this, the district must establish and maintain positive, supportive relationships with each club. **Area Directors play a critical role in preserving this relationship through club visits, which are required twice a year.** By visiting clubs, Area Directors identify strengths and opportunities for improvement for their clubs. It is recommended to visit clubs as soon as possible in the year, in order to establish plans for action that can be implemented with the most effectiveness

3. **Area and Division Success Plans:** 12 of 16 area success plans and 4 of 5 division success plans have been completed. Thank you to those who have completed the plans. Those who haven't completed the success plans yet, please try to do so before end of December. The completed plans have been uploaded to the district website in the December 2020 section of DEC AGENDAS page (<https://d54tm.com/dec-agendas>) Also, now that we are half way through the year, this is a good time to review the plans and revise as needed.

## **District's Revised Priorities for the Year – Need Your Help**

In view of the ongoing pandemic and work from home situations, I had presented a revised set of district priorities for the year at the November DEC meeting. Please see [November District Director Report](#) on district website for the 10 focus areas from highest (1) to lowest (10) priorities, who will need to be involved in achieving each priority, and potential ways to achieve each.

As you can see, **area and division directors play an important role** in achieving the top four priorities 1) **Make sure Clubs Continue to Meet** 2) **Membership Retention / No Net Club Loss** 3) **Club Excellence** 4) **Improved Pathways Adoption and Rate of Level Completions**.

We hope we can count on your continued commitment and support in achieving these priorities for the success of the clubs and the district. **A couple of items that need your immediate attention are below**

1. Remind all members in your area clubs who have renewed their membership to choose a free Pathways path offered by TI before end of December. They can do this even if they haven't even started on their first path and can work on the path later.
2. Do whatever you can to help the clubs that are one or two members shy of 8 members to become clubs in good standing. Please note a paid member can participate in a speech contest only if the club is also in good standing

## **Toastmasters International Updates and Due Dates**

- **Free Pathways path:** all members **renewing** membership before December 31, 2020
- **Speakathons:** as per the email sent by TI on August 25 to all club presidents and VPEs, clubs can hold Speakathons where members come together solely focus on giving speeches to progress on their path
- **New clubs:** for any club chartering in November, December, or January, the charter fee (\$125.00) and new member fee (\$20.00 per member) will be waived. This can save \$525.00
- **Online Speech Contest Guidelines:** All contests must be held online. The contests may also be pre-recorded with all contestants and contest officials in physically distant locations and the recording to be shared at a later time with the audience.
- **Temporary exceptions to District Finance protocol:** district can budget expenses to exceed current year revenue by 10%
- **District Administrative Bylaws and Protocol 9.0:** changes related to district leaders election requirements
- **Online Clubs Alignment Process:** any new online club organized in the 2020-2021 program year may be aligned to a District of the club's choice with the district council approval. Clubs organized prior to July 1, 2020 (typically clubs in District U, Division O) can do the same.
- **Club suspension and reimbursement**

The Board approved the following exceptions, effective for the April 2020 and October 2020 renewal periods:

- Clubs are considered paid and in good standing when their dues have been received at World Headquarters for the April and October 2020 dues periods for a minimum of eight members, without three of those members needing to have been members of the club during the previous renewal period.
- Clubs that have not yet met the April 2020 renewal requirement will have an additional six (6) months to return to good standing before being suspended.
- Clubs that have been inactive for two (2) full dues renewal periods can reinstate in the following dues period, when the following have been paid in full:
  - a. Current dues for a minimum of eight (8) individual members;
  - b. Any overdue account balance;
  - c. And one of the following fees or dues:
    - i. The reinstatement fee has been reduced to \$100 USD (usually as high as \$720 USD for clubs that reinstated after two periods of inactivity). This new fee is payable one time for the April 2020 or October 2020 dues cycle.
    - ii. Dues for all individual members in the club during the previous reporting period(s).