

District 54 Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 20, 2021

# *Virtual Zoom Meeting*

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***OPENING***

Dick Poirier, DTM, D54 Webmaster, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am, on behalf of Bradley Stewart, who was unable to attend. Dick led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***WELCOME***

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director, welcomed everyone to the March meeting. He thanked everyone for coming on the first day of Spring! Bala reminded us that, as of March 20 (today), there are still 120 days left in the Toastmasters year. We have 102 days to accomplish big things for District 54. Let’s do our best!

***INSPIRATION***

Abraham Gunaseelan, IP3, gave the Inspiration for the meeting.

Leaders do not create **followers**, they create **leaders.**  2020 was an uncertain and scary year, and 2021 is starting off in much the same way. How are we to be effective leaders in these uncertain times? Here are three things to remember:

* Be aware that life can throw “curveballs”
* Stick to your core values – BUT – also be flexible/adaptable.
* Mentor others in such a way that they can, in turn, go out and lead others.

Abraham left us with an African proverb: “However long the night, the dawn will break.”

***OUR VISION and DISTRICT MISSION***

The reading of Our Vision and District Mission was led by Chris Boyk, DTM, IPDD.

**District Vision**We support all clubs in achieving members’ goals and strive to form new clubs to spread the Toastmasters mission.

**District Mission**We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

***DISTRICT OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Present** | **First** | **Last** | **Designation** | **Office** |
| **X** | BALA | SREEDHARAN | DTM | DISTRICT DIRECTOR |
| **X** | MARYANN | REICHELT | DTM | PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR |
| **X** | DAN | KYBURZ | DTM | CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR |
|  | AELITA | ARCHBOLD | EH5 | PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER |
| **X** | ANDREA | GLUCK | VC1 | ADMINISTRATION MANAGER |
| **X** | RABAH | SEFFAL | ACS, ALB | FINANCE MANAGER |
| **X** | CHRIS | BOYK | DTM | IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | JOYCE | SCHUMPERT | ACB, ALB | DIVISION A DIRECTOR |
| **X** | MICHAEL | BRADFORD | ACB, ALB | DIVISION B DIRECTOR |
| **X** | GREG | LEROY | VC1 | DIVISION C DIRECTOR |
| **X** | JULIA | ISSA-GHANTOUS | DL2 | DIVISION D DIRECTOR |
| **X** | CRAIG | KARVALA | DTM | DIVISION E DIRECTOR |
| **X** | JEFF | METTERS | TC1 | AREA 10 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | JEFFREY | STINE | IP4 | AREA 11 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | WILLIAM | SMOLA | VC2 | AREA 12 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | KARI | SUSAIRAJ | EC5 | AREA 20 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | ADAMA | MOSETI | DL1 | AREA 21 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | LAURA | HANSEN | LD2 | AREA 22 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | ADAM | BOCKLER | DL1 | AREA 30 DIRECTOR |
|  | MILIND | SOMAN | DL1 | AREA 31 DIRECTOR |
|  | JODI | MELTON | VC1 | AREA 32 DIRECTOR |
|  | CONSTANCE | LUSIETTO | CC | AREA 40 DIRECTOR |
|  | DOMINIC | TIPPABATTUNI | EC2 | AREA 41 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | DEBRA K | TOOHILL | DTM | AREA 42 DIRECTOR |
|  | JEN | HO | DL1 | AREA 43 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | MARTHA | SOJKA | IP3 | AREA 50 DIRECTOR |
|  | JEFF | KUBILLUS | EC3 | AREA 51 DIRECTOR |
| **X** | DARREL | FELTY | DTM | AREA 52 DIRECTOR |

20 members were present – a quorum is 15; therefore, there was a quorum at the meeting.

# *ADOPTION OF AGENDA*

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director, reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Substitutions/Changes: Dick Poirier opened the meeting for Bradley Stewart. Jeff Metters, Area 10 Director, presented the Division A report for Joyce Schumpert, Division A Director. Dick Poirier presented the Public Relations Manager report for Aelita Archbold. This month, we had a 20-minute discussion on District Alignment, which is unique to this meeting. We also invited our Conference Co-Chairs, Kari Susairaj and Lloyd Trowers, to share information about the 2021 Annual Conference.

Michael Bradford, ACB, ALB, Division B Director, made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Dan Kyburz, DTM, Club Growth Director, seconded. Agenda accepted as amended.

# *ADMINISTRATION MANAGER*

Andrea Gluck, VC1, Administration Manager, presented the February 2021 minutes as recorded by Kari Susairaj, EC5, Area 20 Director.

The meeting minutes and all other meeting-related documents are now housed on the D54 website. The meeting minutes were reviewed and approved beforehand by the D54 Trio. Therefore, no additional approval is needed during the meeting.

# *FINANCE MANAGER*

Rabah Seffal, Finance Manager, was present at the meeting, but no official February report was available from Toastmasters at the time of the meeting, so the February report will be given at the next DEC meeting on April 17.

Just some quick numbers: $35 is available for awards & recognition (bulk of that money was spent on Hall of Fame awards). $1500 is available for communication expenses. $24,000 is available in our District Fund.

# *2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS*

This year’s Annual Conference is co-chaired by Kari Susairaj, EC5, Area 20 Director, and Lloyd Trowers, PM2. The conference theme is “Overcoming Obstacles Creatively”, which will focus on celebrating successes and unique ideas during this unprecedented time.

This year, the conference is **100% virtual** and will be held on two Saturdays instead of the traditional Friday-Saturday format. The dates are: Saturday, April 24, and Saturday, May 1, 9:00 am-5:00 pm both days. There is **no charge** to attend the conference! As of March 20, registration was not yet available. (Check d54tm.com for updates.)

If you would like to help at the conference, follow this link: <https://d54tm.com/volunteer-to-help>.

To talk to the chairs: [D542021conf@gmail.com](mailto:D542021conf@gmail.com).

***Division Reports & PRM Report***

The verbal reports were submitted by Division Directors in advance of meeting. The reports were presented in alphabetical order.

# *DIVISION A*

Jeff Metters, Area 10 Director, presented the Division A report on behalf of Joyce Schumpert, Division A Director, who was unable to attend the meeting. A written report was not submitted.

Congratulations to Blue Blazers, celebrating their 43rd anniversary on April 1! Advanced Expressives is having an Open House on March 27 at 10:00 am.

***DIVISION B***

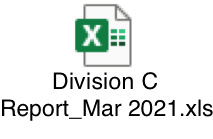
Michael Bradford, Division B Director, presented the Division B Director’s Report, submitted and attached.



Quad Cities Easy Speakers and John Deere Toastmasters are both having an Open House in April. Prairieland Toastmasters has been suspended due to membership. S.W.A.P. Toastmasters Club is not meeting due to the pandemic.

***DIVISION C***

Greg Leroy, Division C Director, presented the Division C Director’s Report, submitted and attached.



# *DIVISION D*

Julia Issa-Ghantous, Division D Director, presented the Division D Director’s Report, submitted and attached.



Volunteers are needed for the Division D Speech contest on April 10.

***DIVISION E***

Dr. Craig Karvala, Division E Director, presented the Division E Director’s Report, submitted and attached.



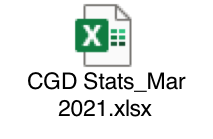
***PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER***

Dick Poirier, D54 Webmaster, presented the Public Relations Manager report on behalf of Aelita Archbold, Public Relations Manager, who was unable to attend. A written report was not submitted.

The D54 Facebook group is up to 172 members! Facebook page and group have been created. New Toastmaster and Toastimonials contest has started. Modified format for VPPR to take place as Q&As.

***CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR***

Dan Kyburz, DTM, Club Growth Director, presented the Club Growth Director Report, submitted and attached.



143 new members this year. Talk Up Toastmasters has 5 new members, which earns them a 10% discount in the Toastmasters Store and a ribbon for their banner!

13 clubs have paid full dues; 27 clubs have not paid any dues. Lincoln-Douglas Toastmasters, Illini Toastmasters, and Riverfront Toastmasters have submitted dissolution forms.

Club Leads: We have many leads, but some do not want to go any further until in-person meetings are possible again.

***PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR***

Maryann Reichelt, DTM, Program Quality Director, gave the Program Quality Director’s report, submitted and attached.



Winter TLI Sessions: 276 officers attended (68%)! Congratulations to New Lenox Toastmasters, the first club to achieve the Pathways adoption incentive! As of February 18, our District had a Pathways adoption rate of 83.9% - this is better than the average rate for Region 5!

District 54 members achieved 34 educational awards between January 16 and February 16! Congratulations!

With the conference being virtual this year, we cannot have our usual parade of banners. Instead, we will have a “Virtual Banner Parade” – take a picture of your banner and submit it for recognition during the conference.

***DISTRICT DIRECTOR***

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director presented a District Director Report, submitted and attached.



Just a few quick reminders: 1) **Seven** Judges are needed for Division Speech Contests; and 2) Conducting a Speechcraft workshop can fulfill one of the requirements necessary for a Toastmaster to achieve DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster).

# *DISTRICT 54 REALIGNMENT CHAIR*

Tony Koury, DTM, is the Chair of the District Realignment Committee. He thanked his committee members: Tom Willison, DTM, representing Division A; Jon Greiner, DTM, PIP, representing Division B; Val Horton, DTM, representing Division C; Bonnie Tippey, DTM, representing Division D; and Angie Mullin, DTM, representing Division E.

Toastmasters International Policy 7.0 and Protocol 7.0 are the guidelines by which Clubs are aligned and the District is restructured. Check them out here: <https://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/governing-Documents#PolicyandProtocol>. Per these documents: Areas MUST consist of four to six clubs – UNLESS – the Area has only three clubs on July 1 but is in the process of chartering a fourth club. Divisions MUST have three or more Areas.

The Committee considered the following when determining removal of a club from District alignment:

* Did the club send a Notice of Dissolution form?
* Did a club officer notify the Committee of the club’s intent to dissolve?
* Has the club not been in good standing for the last two dues cycles, or has the club not had a meeting in the past twelve months?

Based on this information, ten clubs were removed from District alignment.

The biggest change for the District with the realignment is the elimination of one Division. (no Division E next year). This will reduce the number of Divisions from five to four.

Here are the changes by Division (to take effect July 1, 2021):

Division A – Not much impact. AGWM Toastmasters Club has been suspended. Rockford Club had not met since March 2020, but now has gone from zero to six members.

Division B – This will consist of the current Division C clubs.

* All clubs currently in Area 22 (with the exception of The Leadership Train) will be dispersed into Areas 20 & 21. The Leadership Train will be put in the new Division D.
* The new Area 22 will consist of the current Areas 30 & 32 in Division C.
* New area added: Area 23, which will consist of current Area 31 in Division C.

Division C – This will consist of the current Division D clubs.

* State Farm Summit Talks club is suspended.
* State Farm Landmark Club will be in Area 32.

Division D – This will consist of the current Division E clubs.

* Several clubs are or will be suspended.
* There will no longer be Areas 50-52; they will become Areas 40-42.
* Joliet Jesters will move to Area 41.
* The Leadership Train will move to Division D, Area 41. This club is effectively considered a “wildcard” club; its geographic location is not as important as for other clubs, so it can be in any Division or Area.
* Iroquois Toastmasters will move to Area 42.

Division E – This division will be eliminated.

What do these changes mean? With the elimination of one Division, starting with the 2021-2022 Toastmasters year, each Division will be able to send TWO contestants to the District Contest.

All these changes and updates will be posted on the D54 Toastmasters website two weeks before the May 1 District Council Meeting.

# *DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE*

Chris Boyk, DTM, is the chair of this year’s District Leadership Committee. He identified and thanked his committee members: Steve Cohen, DTM, representing Division A; Prakash Ramanathan, CC, ALB, representing Division B; Cece Wroblewski, DTM, representing Division C; Sherri DeLeonardis, DTM, representing Division D; and Larry Josephson, DTM, representing Division E. Written report submitted and attached.



The Committee has identified the following candidates for District positions for the 2021-2022 Toastmasters year:

* Division Director: **Maryann Reichelt, DTM**
* Program Quality Director: **Dan Kyburz, DTM**
* Club Growth Director: **Michael Bradford, ACB, ALB, & Heather Blasé, DTM**
* Division A Director: **Bill Smola, VC2**
* Division B Director: **Laura Hansen, LD2**

There are currently no candidates for Division C Director or Division D Director. Anyone interested in being a candidate for either position must contact the Division Director **no later than April 17 (exactly two weeks before the District Council meeting).**

**\*\***NOTE: If a candidate has already been identified for a position, no one may run from the floor for the same position. \*\*

# *NEW BUSINESS*

Shelved until next meeting due to time constraints.

# *CLOSING THOUGHTS*

Darrel Felty, DTM, Area 52 Director, gave the closing thoughts. He shared a quote from Henry Ford: “Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs.”

Darrel shared his experience from the district in 2010, where the end of the Toastmasters year was quickly approaching, and the district was 134 membership payments short of being Distinguished – a seemingly insurmountable goal. One valuable piece of advice they were given was to break the big goal down into smaller goals. A committee was formed, and each member of the committee was to try to recruit 10 new members. District 54 ended up reaching Distinguished status with two days to spare! 2010 was also the last year the District reached Distinguished status!

This goal would never have been achieved if it hadn’t been broken down into smaller parts. Is there a big task or goal that we can break down in order to achieve it? The worse case scenario: July 1 hits and we may not have met the goal, but we did everything we could.

# *ADJOURNMENT*

Greg LeRoy, VC1, Division C Director, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Maryann Reichelt, DTM, Program Quality Director. No objections, motion carried.

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director, adjourned the meeting at 10:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Gluck, VC1

District 54 Administration Manager, 2020-2021