

District 54 Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Saturday August 15, 2020

# *Virtual Zoom Meeting*

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***OPENING***

Chris Boyk, IPDD, on behalf of Bradley Stewart, Logistics Manager, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***WELCOME***

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director, welcomed everyone to the August Virtual DEC meeting on Zoom. He mentioned the passing of Jordan Sovereign, DTM, and called upon Bonnie Tippey to give a few words of tribute. He then asked for a few moments of silence to honor Jordan.

***INSPIRATIONAL READING***

Adam Bockler, Area 30 Director, gave the inspirational reading for the meeting. He read a blog post called “Drop In” – either we are all in or all out. We must commit fully – we must “Drop In”.

***OUR VISION and DISTRICT MISSION***

The reading of Our Vision and District Mission was led by Milind Soman, Area 31 Director.

**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 | PQD |
| X | DAN | KYBURZ | DTM | CGD |
|  | AELITA | ARCHBOLD | EH4 | PRM |
| X | ANDREA | GLUCK | VC1 | ADMINISTRATION MANAGER |
|  | RABAH | SEFFAL | ACS, ALB | FINANCE MANAGER |
| X | CHRIS | BOYK | DTM | IPDD |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| X | 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 | DL1 | DIVISION D DIRECTOR |
| X | CRAIG | KARVALA | DTM | DIVISION E DIRECTOR |
| X | JEFF | METTERS | LD5 | AREA 10 DIRECTOR |
| X | JEFFREY | STINE | IP4 | AREA 11 DIRECTOR |
| X | WILLIAM | SMOLA | VC2 | AREA 12 DIRECTOR |
| X | KARI | SUSAIRAJ | EC3 | AREA 20 DIRECTOR |
| X | ADAMA | MOSETI | CC, CL | AREA 21 DIRECTOR |
| X | LAURA | HANSEN | LD2 | AREA 22 DIRECTOR |
| X | ADAM | BOCKLER | LD3 | AREA 30 DIRECTOR |
| X | MILIND | SOMAN | DL1 | AREA 31 DIRECTOR |
| X | JODI | MELTON | VC1 | AREA 32 DIRECTOR |
| X | 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 | EC2 | AREA 51 DIRECTOR |
| X | DARREL | FELTY | DTM | AREA 52 DIRECTOR |

A quorum is 15 members present; therefore, there was a quorum at the meeting.

# *ADOPTION OF AGENDA*

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director, reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Our Finance Manager, Rabah Seffal, is unable to leave Africa for now; his reports have been submitted and will be read by Chris Boyk, DTM, IPDD. There was one change to the agenda: Chris Boyk, IPDD, will read the Public Relations Manager report if Aelita Archbold, PRM, is unable to attend.

Chris Boyk, IPDD, mentioned that we had to amend the agenda last minute to add the tribute to Jordan Sovereign.

Michael Bradford, Division B Director, made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Craig Karvala, Division E Director. Motion carried.

# *ADMINISTRATION MANAGER*

Andrea Gluck, VC1, Administration Manager, presented the July 2020 minutes. Andrea announced that all reports were received in advance for the August meeting!

Julia Issa-Ghantous, Division D Director, made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented. Greg Leroy, Division C Director, seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

# *FINANCE MANAGER*

Chris Boyk, DTM, IPDD, presented the Finance Manager Report on behalf of Rabah Seffal, who was unable to attend from Algeria. The report is on a one-month lag and was based on June 2020 information.

End of 2019-2020 year audit has been conducted and we are awaiting the results. Our income was less than budgeted, but our total expenses were also less than budgeted. Our biggest expense was the Education & Training expense, which consisted of paying out incentives.

Per Bala, this year there is a change, we are not allowed to budget expenses that are higher than our revenues. This is a change in TI this year.



***Division Reports & PRM Report***

The verbal reports were submitted by each Division Director in advance of meeting. The reports were presented in the following order: B, C, D, E, A.

# *DIVISION A*

Joyce Schumpert, Division A Director, presented the Division A Director’s Report, submitted and attached.



Division A is looking for information about how Toastmasters International fared during the period of the Great Depression (1929-1939).

***DIVISION B***

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

Meeting in person is difficult for Division B clubs at this time. Most of the clubs are using the Zoom platform.



***DIVISION C***

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

Goals: Attain 8 more goals in the next month; 9 currently met. Actively pursue new members for all clubs. Have meetings with Area Directors on a monthly basis.

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# *DIVISION D*

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



***DIVISION E***

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



***PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER***

Chris Boyk, IPDD presented the Public Relations Manager report on behalf of Aelita Archbold, PRM, who was unable to attend. The PRM report is submitted and attached.



The following PR positions are open and volunteers requested: Instagram Manager, LinkedIn Manager, Twitter Manager. The PRM will be having monthly meetings with all District VP-PRs.

***CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR***

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



Kelly Nielsen, DTM, is our new Club Extension Chair. Welcome, Kelly! Goal is to help every club to reach DCP goals 7 & 8 (Membership).

Pimiteoui Club has requested a Club Coach. Please contact Dan Kyburz if you are interested.

Corporate Relations Chair position is still open.

***PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR***

Maryann Reichelt, DTM, Program Quality Director, presented the Program Quality Director Report, submitted and attached.



District 54 has an overall Pathways Adoption Rate increase by 1.5% over the last month!

Winter TLI Deans are needed; also Zoom Masters for the Winter TLI. We also need Annual Conference Co-Chairs. The conference will be April 30-May 1, 2021, in Elgin, IL.

Please let the PQD know if you have suggestions for future virtual training suggestions.

There is an open position for District Training Coordinator.

***DISTRICT DIRECTOR***

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



The District Trio attended the Toastmasters International District Leader Training the first two weekends in August.

August 24-29 is the Toastmasters International 2020 VIRTUAL Convention. Attendance is FREE, and recommended.

We have some committee chair positions open. The District Director will be sending out an e-mail soon recruiting for these positions.

# *OPEN DISCUSSION / Q&A / ANNOUNCEMENTS*

A question was raised about extending online dues payments to members, not just officers. Toastmasters International is working on this feature, and they are hoping to have it up and running soon. A suggestion is to have the officer work with the member to submit the dues online, or to use Zelle (which does not charge fees) over PayPal (which charges fees).

There was some concern over the glitch in the Google Forms that may have caused some officers to not be credited for their training. We have the screen shots of each training as to who the participants were. We will ensure the training is credited properly. Clubs who are NOT currently meeting should still attend training. The only exception to this is the prison clubs, who are unable to meet online.

# *NEW BUSINESS*

Speech Contests – How do we address them this year?

* The International Speech Contest is required every year.
* Maryann Reichelt, DTM, Program Quality Director, made a motion for the 2021 Annual Conference that we hold the Evaluation Contest. Dan Kyburz, DTM, Club Growth Director, seconded the motion.
* Open Discussion: We cannot afford to have more than two contests (per the budget, with trophies, logistics, etc.). Also, the conference schedule is already being planned and there wouldn’t be much room for more contests. Also, if the conference is virtual, for the evaluation contest, we will need virtual rooms.
* Note from Bonnie Tippey, DTM, President, Delightful Greeters: It would be nice if the District could have documentation about which speech contests are held in which year so that we give them all even support. We should also create a speech contest plan going forward
* The DEC put it up to a vote: Should our 2nd contest be the Evaluation Contest? There were **15** yes votes and **6** no votes. The majority voted yes; therefore, motion carried.

# *CLOSING THOUGHTS*

Past District Director, Tony Koury, DTM, gave the closing thoughts. He told a story about cowboys and the rodeo. The bull gets agitated and tries to buck off the cowboy. The timer goes off, and the cowboy has managed to stay on the bull successfully. What does this have to do with Toastmasters and the COVID-19 situation?

We can learn many traits from the cowboy that is riding the bull:

* Anticipate a changing situation – We don’t know what to expect with COVID-19. We need to embrace the unique challenge during these unpredictable times.
* React quickly.
* Stay the course and don’t give up!

# *ADJOURNMENT*

Chris Boyk, IPDD, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Bradford, Division B director. Motion carried.

Bala Sreedharan, DTM, District Director, adjourned the meeting at 10:58 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Gluck, VC1

District 54 Administration Manager, 2020-2021