May 1, 2021 District 54 Council Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1:17 pm.

Brad Stewart let us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bala Sreedharan, District Director, opened the meeting. Welcomed all district leaders, club officers, members, and guests.

Inspiration – Jon Greiner

* It has been a challenging year, to say the least. Yet, here we are, wounded, but still standing.
* “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”. Many of our leaders over this past year have risen to these unprecedented challenges.
* The future will bring significant challenges and changes. We need leaders to show us the way forward. Who will recognize the change needed. We need strong leaders who have proven themselves “in the heat of the battle”.
* It’s up to us to elect the candidates that we feel will meet the challenges.
* There are still opportunities available for those who wish to be part of the District next year.

District Mission – Bala Sreedharan

Agenda Adoption

* Division C report given by Milind Soman for Greg Leroy
* Division E report given by Martha Sojka for Craig Karvala
* Bala Sreedharan to present Division D report if Division D Director is not on the call.
* Sherri Deleonardis moved to adopt agenda as amended. Dan Kyburz seconded.
* 45 yes votes out of 51 – majority – agenda adopted as amended.

Voting Procedure Explanation – Jim Dickson, Parliamentarian

* Robert’s Rules of Order are the final authority in the voting procedures.
* Each DEC member gets at least one vote; if they are Pres or VPE, they will get more.

Credentials Committee Report – Chris Boyk

* 50 paid clubs in good standing. Each club gets two votes. For quorum, we must have 1/3 of President and VP Education represented (33-34 members).
* 54 members registered for credentials; 51 members have attended. We have a quorum and can proceed with business as scheduled.
* Credentials report adopted without objection.

Admin Manager Report

* Minutes posted on website and adopted without objection.

District Alignment Report – Tony Koury

* TI requires alignment reviews every year.
* Removing a club
* Dissolution form sent to TI
* Club Suspended by TI
* Unpaid clubs for past two cycles – added as a fifth or sixth club
* Clubs Removed
* Riverfront – Dissolution sent
* Illini Toastmasters – Dissolution sent
* Lincoln-Douglas – Dissolution sent
* Yash – suspended by TI
* Pekin Insurance – suspended by TI
* Bolingbrook Area – suspended by TI
* Lincoln Trails – suspended by TI
* No new clubs chartered at this time, and no prospective clubs that would realistically organize by June 30.
* Current alignment - 5 divisions, 16 areas, 74 clubs
* Proposed alignment - 4 Divisions, 14 areas, 67 clubs
* Division A stays the same, Division C and B merge, Division D becomes Division C, Division E becomes Division D
* Questions
* Motion to accept alignment as presented Dan Kyburz
* Sarah Towne, RLI President – seconded motion
* Voting: 36 yes, 3 no
* Alignment report approved.

District Leadership Committee Report – Chris Boyk

Committee

Division A Steve Cohen

Division B Prakash Ramanathan

Division C Cece Wroblewski

Division D Sherri Deleonardis

Division E Larry Josephson

Officers recommended by the committee:

DD – Maryann Reichelt – No objections, single ballot

PQD – Dan Kyburz – No objections, single ballot

CGD – Heather Blase or Mike Bradford – each candidate gets two minutes to give a speech. Voting done by secret ballot, Andrea Gluck observer for Heather, Tony Koury observer for Michael. 41 to 13 in favor of Heather. Heather is our new CGD.

Division A – Bill Smola

Division B – Laura Hansen

Division C – Jen Ho (did not submit on time)

Division D – Martha Sojka (did not submit on time)

Reports

Finance Manager

* No travel expenses this year as our meetings have all been virtual.

Audit Committee Report – Abraham Gunaseelan

* Monthly reports from July – December 2020 reviewed
* Nothing out of line with District mission

5 minute break at 2:46 pm

Division A Director – Bill Smola – single ballot cast, Bill Smola elected

Division B – Laura Hansen is the candidate – single ballot cast – Laura Hansen elected

Division C –Jen Ho running from the floor - single ballot cast – Jennifer Ho

Division D – Martha Sojka running from the floor – single ballot cast – Martha elected

PRM Report – Aelita Archbold

CGD – Dan Kyburz

PQD – Maryann Reichelt

* Sunday June 13 1-5 pm, & Sunday June 27 1-5 pm – Area & Division Director Training
* TLI June 26 9 am, Jul 11 1pm, M-T Jul 19-20 7pm
* May 19 7pm Virtual Speechcraft Webinar

DD – Bala Sreedharan

New business – None

Region 5 International Director Candidates Showcase

* Term: Every 2 years
* Mohamad Qayoom’s term is ending
* Two candidates: Farzana Chohan & Monnica Rose

Closing Thoughts: Dick Poirier

* We’ve had many obstacles. Many of us have seen those obstacles as “opportunities”.
* We learned new ways to communicate and lead in a virtual environment.
* Whatever path we take, let’s creatively embrace those opportunities.
* Christopher Reeve – “A hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles”.
* You are heroes. Let’s together continue to overcome obstacles creatively.

Meeting adjourn – motion by Chris Boyk

Second by Sarah Towne

Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm