

**District 35  
2016 Spring Convention**

**District Council Meeting  
Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center,  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
May 7, 2016**



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The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Master Host Ken Bjorkquist, DTM.

District Director Rhonda Williams, DTM welcomed members to the District 35 Council meeting. Rhonda explained the rules of how the District Council meeting will be conducted and that anyone addressing the Council needs to state their name and club number. Area Directors Ranee Graf and David Dopkins will be serving as ballot counters for the elections.

**Credentials Committee Report**—Jeff Ebel, DTM

There are 120 clubs in District 35.

A quorum is 1/3 of Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education.

Therefore, 120 clubs x 2 officers = 240 votes x 1/3 = 80 votes for a quorum.

80 clubs with 125 votes are registered for this District Council Meeting.

24 other District Officers are also registered.

The total possible votes are 149.

A majority is 50% plus one or 75 votes. 75% is 112 votes.

A quorum is present for this District Council Meeting.

**District Administration Manager**—Ed Thelen, DTM

*Written report submitted.*

Minutes from the November 7, 2015 District Council Meeting are posted on the District 35 website. The minutes were reviewed by a subcommittee and approved as posted.

In addition to the meeting minutes, all individual reports are posted on the District 35 website under the Public Downloads section.

**Audit Committee Report**—Tom Rozga, DTM, PDG

*Written report submitted.*

The District 35 mid-year audit was completed successfully on February 9th. The committee had a few recommendations including ensuring all purchases are tax exempt, providing TLI training at no cost to club officers and consistency in whether or not there should be a charge for Area Contests.

The committee would like to compliment District Finance Manager, Sue Kohut, for the excellent job of record keeping and the accuracy of reports.

**District Finance Manager**—Sue Kohut, DTM

*Written report submitted.*

Sue thanked the audit committee, consisting of Tom Rozga (chair), Greg Bednar and Justin Gottfried for their service.

At the end of April, there was \$6,911.08 in the checking account. The March reserve statement had a balance of \$56,168.27, of which approximately 25% is held in reserve at Toastmasters International. There are many items still budgeted for the remainder of the year where money will be spent by the District.

All expenses for the 2015-2016 Toastmasters year will need to be submitted and approved before the end of June. The submission deadline for expenses is June 22<sup>nd</sup> and vouchers should be submitted to District Director Rhonda Williams.

### **District Realignment Report—David Simono, ALB, ACS**

*Written report submitted.*

Proposed changes are due to the growth of the District. Each Division Director and many other experienced Toastmasters were contacted to discuss the challenges and create the best alignment solution to allow for growth and leadership opportunities. The proposed changes have been posted on the District 35 website.

Central Division: TM 35 Leadership Club and Southwest Area Toastmasters will move to Area C1. Reedsburg Area Club and Rolling Hills Toastmasters will move to Area W1. Area C5 will no longer be needed.

Eastern Division: There are no proposed changes for the Eastern Division.

Northern Division: There are no proposed changes for the Northern Division.

Western Division: Reedsburg Area Club and Rolling Hills Toastmasters will move to Area W1 from Area C5.

Metro and Southeast Division: The current Metro and Southeast Divisions will be split into 4 new Divisions. Currently these Divisions are simply labeled A, B, D and F and can be named at a later date. The clubs will be aligned into Areas by geographic location and create Areas and Divisions with less clubs so that Area and Division Directors do not get overwhelmed.

David Simono, ALB, ACS moved to adopt the new realignment of the District as proposed; Julia Boss, GE Speaks Toastmasters #1295732, seconded the motion. Kathy Shine, Cream City Communicators #739100, asked a question about Area D3 as it appeared Cream City Communicators was the only community club in that Area with three corporate clubs. Several individuals responded that another club in that Area, Smokey's Sensations, had recently transitioned to a community club making the split in Area D3 even between corporate and community clubs. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Nominating Committee Report—Laurie Baker, DTM**

*Written report submitted.*

The presented slate of candidates for office are:

- District Director: Cindy Laatsch
- Program Quality Director: Keith Cumiskey
- Club Growth Director: Kathleen Rader and Heidi Schreiner and Edward Thelen
- Division Director – Central: Laura Croft
- Division Director – Eastern: Maria Armbrust
- Division Director – Metro: Ronda Borowski and Amy Linn-Strosin
- Division Director – Northern: Brian Cychosz
- Division Director – Southeast: Theresa Flynn
- Division Director – Western: Brenda Michels

Because of the passage of the District Realignment with four new Divisions, all Division Director candidates for Divisions A, B, D and F had to run from the floor. The additional nominations from the floor were as follows:

- Tom McFarlin, Love of Laughter #1222778, nominated John Scott for the position of Division Director – Division B. John Scott accepted the nomination.
- Larry Penke, Sheboygan Club #2121, and Mike Zelm, Capital City #2953 asked for clarification on the nomination process and whether individuals could self-nominate themselves. District Director Rhonda Williams indicated self-nominations were acceptable.
- Aundrea Price, TM 35 Leadership Club #1517456, nominated Timothy Bailey for the position of Division Director – Division B. Timothy Bailey accepted the nomination.

- Chad Lawson, Landmark Club #4046, nominated himself for the position of Division Director – Division D and by self-nominating, accepted the nomination.
- Timothy Bailey, Ozaukee Club #3210, nominated Amy Linn-Strosin for the position of Division Director – Division A. Amy Linn-Strosin accepted the nomination.
- Ronda Borowski, Waukesha #1173, nominated herself for the positions of Division Director – Division B and Division Director – Division D and by self-nominating, accepted the nomination.
- Amy Linn-Strosin, Generally Speaking #879726, nominated Theresa Flynn for the position of Division Director – Division D. Theresa Flynn accepted the nomination.
- Jackie Scott, Love of Laughter #1222778, nominated John Scott for the position of Division Director – Division F. John Scott accepted the nomination.
- Kona Bahr, Franklin Toastmasters #4719901, nominated Theresa Flynn for the position of Division Director – Division B. Theresa Flynn accepted the nomination.

#### **Election of 2016-2017 District Officers**—Rhonda Williams, DTM

David Dopkins, Reedsburg Area Club #2780, moved to close nominations, the rules be suspended, and the Administration Manager be instructed to cast a ballot for the slate of uncontested officers; seconded by Dick Seelig, Resource Advanced Club #5296. The motion passed unanimously.

- There were three candidates for Club Growth Director. A second ballot/voting was not required.
- There were three candidates for Division Director – Division B. Theresa Flynn was elected Division Director – Division B on the first ballot; however Theresa Flynn declined the position of Division Director – Division B. A re-vote was done with the two remaining candidates for Division Director – Division B.
- Prior to the election for Division Director – Division D, Chad Lawson withdrew his nomination for this position, leaving two candidates in the election for Division Director – Division D.

The 2016-2017 District Officers are:

- District Director: Cindy Laatsch
- Program Quality Director: Keith Cumiskey
- Club Growth Director: Ed Thelen
- Division Director – Central: Laura Croft
- Division Director – Eastern: Maria Armbrust
- Division Director – Northern: Brian Cychosz
- Division Director – Western: Brenda Michels
- Division Director – Division “A”: Amy Linn-Strosin
- Division Director – Division “B”: Timothy Bailey
- Division Director – Division “D”: Theresa Flynn
- Division Director – Division “F”: John Scott

#### **Public Relations Manager Report**—Barbara Weisenberger, DTM

*Written report submitted.*

The major goal for the year for Public Relations was to have an increased emphasis on social media. This was accomplished through better use of our District Facebook page and YouTube, using HangOut and MeetUp and starting to use LinkedIn more. In addition, the District website has been “pumped up” for greater and more effective usage. Barbara thanked Webmaster Peggy Lee Hanson and District Newsletter editor Christine Piela for their support in District public relations efforts. Another accomplishment in Public Relations for this past year was bringing together the Club Vice Presidents Public Relations (Vipers) to reach each club in the District.

#### **Division Directors’ Reports**

##### **Central Division**—Nancy McCulley, ACB, ALS

- *Written report submitted.*
- As of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 clubs are Distinguished.
- Club visits are being worked on and will be completed by the end of May.

- Challenges are low participation in contests, finding appropriate meeting venues for clubs, getting eligible clubs to request Club Coaches.
- The use of a Greater Madison Meetup group, coordinated by Area C2 Director, Laura Croft, was highlighted.

**Eastern Division**—Vince Treague, DTM

- *Written report submitted.*
- 12 of 15 clubs participated in the winter TLIs with 7 of 15 clubs having 4 or more officers trained.
- Monthly Division Council and Area Council meetings have been held so clubs can network to resolve challenges together.
- All club visits will be completed by the end of May.
- Membership continues to be a concern but there is potential for two new clubs in the Division.

**Metro Division**—Julia Boss, ACS, ALS

- *Written report submitted.*
- 11 clubs are already Distinguished with the possibility of five more before June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Corporate reorganizations, general loss of members and loss of officers in some clubs were the main challenges for the Division.
- New members are taking on contests, support roles at contests and leadership roles.
- Metro Division had the highest amount of educational awards completed.

**Northern Division**—Mark Nienow, ACB, CL

- *Written report submitted.*
- Putting on successful TLIs and speech contests, conducting Area visits and finding new Area Directors have been accomplishments for the Division.
- District realignment, membership, keeping clubs in good standing and the loss of two paid clubs have been challenges for the Division.
- Members are going to other organizations and networking groups. Division members attended a career fair. Mentoring between clubs and Speechcraft are all bringing in new members and increasing club quality.

**Southeast Division**—Irvin Snider, DTM

- *Written report submitted.*
- The Division had all areas represented for both speech contests. New leaders have been identified.
- Facebook and Meetup are being used as new tools to connect people within the Division.
- There are currently four Distinguished Clubs but there is a strong probability of 10 to 13 Distinguished Clubs by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Western Division**—Heidi Schreiner, CC

- *Written report submitted.*
- Membership, club growth and leadership continue to be a challenge for most clubs.
- The members of the Western Division have been fantastic in working together to support each of the Areas at their events. For one contest, every active member showed up to support the two contestants.
- The first Division Leadership Council was held last Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was an opportunity to learn about leadership, ask questions and allow Division members to get to know one another.
- Heidi has started a Western Division website to keep the membership informed.

**Club Growth Director Report**—Keith Cumiskey, DTM

*Written report submitted.*

- The District has chartered six new clubs since September with another four expected before July.
- Brenda Michels was added as a new Club Extension Chair.

- We continue to lose clubs almost as quickly as we build them with seven clubs lost or soon to be lost this year.
- Kathleen Rader has joined the team as Club Coach Chair as is working to develop a more comprehensive set of tools and incentives.
- 43 members completed the Club Ambassador Program.

#### **Program Quality Director Report—Cindy Laatsch, DTM**

*Written report submitted.*

- 921 officers were trained this Toastmasters year.
- The District offered a District-wide winter TLI at Monona Terrace in Madison.
- The Fall Conference and Spring Convention were successful due to the involvement of the Committees and Chairpersons to offer educational, fun and interesting training experiences to attendees.
- As of May 5<sup>th</sup>, there were 22 Distinguished Clubs. Six clubs were President's Distinguished, 9 clubs were Select Distinguished and 7 clubs were Distinguished. Special recognition was given to ROK the Talk Toastmasters as it became a Distinguished Club in just over 13 months.
- Cindy challenged us to use our time effectively in the remaining 54 days of the Toastmasters year.

#### **District Director Report—Rhonda Williams, DTM**

It has been a delightful and heartwarming year and I have the best team to work with. We have become more unified as a District. Will we be a Distinguished District? I don't know, but we'll go down fighting. Rhonda related the analogy that "If the house is on fire, do you want to point out that the fireman is a volunteer?" with respect to everyone making their efforts to improve the District. Rhonda provided the example of searching for a realignment chair. She asked Dave Simono. At the time she thought the job would entail moving a few clubs within divisions. Dave determined that we needed 2 more divisions. He then contacted everyone affected by the proposal, laid the plan out to the membership-at-large and took ownership of presenting it to the Council and gaining approval. Rhonda presented Dave Simono with an "Outstanding Toastmaster" pin in gratitude for his service as our District Realignment Chair.

#### **New Business—Rhonda Williams, DTM**

##### **District 35 Procedures Manual—Mike Zelm, DTM, PDG**

- *Written report submitted.*
- District 35 developed a Procedure Manual many years ago to document 'how' the District wanted key functions performed and to document District traditions. Toastmasters International leaves the detail to the Districts.
- Immediate Past District Governor, Craig Carpenter, initiated an update in the last Toastmasters year which was completed in June 2015. Club Growth Director Keith Cumiskey realized a few months ago some additional updates would improve the manual and this was reviewed by several District leaders.
- Robert Lambert, Viroqua Area Toastmasters #1559, made a motion to accept the current version of the Procedures Manual. Kris Pool, Cream City Communicators #739100 seconded the motion and highlighted that the Nominating Committee was not previously in the current version. Tony Cooper, LaCrosse Toastmasters #411, asked for some highlights of the changes which Mike Zelm provided. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Announcements—Rhonda Williams, DTM**

The next District Council meeting is on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at The Abbey Resort in Fontana, WI. The International Speech contest will be conducted a half-hour after the conclusion of the Business Meeting, followed by networking and first timer's receptions with dinner starting at 6:15 p.m.

The District Council meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Thelen, DTM  
District Administration Manager