

District 65 Business Council Meeting Minutes April 30, 2016

Meeting called to order: 16:05pm, Tom Pieklo, District 65 Logistics Manager

Mission of the District – Brion Keller, District Director

Inspiration – Lorraine Mott

- I. **Remembrances:** Chair calls Nancy Scott
 - a. Peter Schlacter (Toastmasters in General)
 - b. Ed Bird (AM Lockport)
 - c. Sally Quail (Power Toastmasters)

- II. **Welcome:** District 65 Director: Brion Keller – Presiding Officer
 - a. Proposed alignment
 - b. Leaders recommended / elections for district leaders next year
 - c. Committee reports and other district leader report

- III. **Credentials report:** Chair calls Kate Olsen, past District Governor
 - a. Total of 107 active clubs in District 65
 - b. Quorum:
 - i. 214 total votes among clubs, of which 1/3 are required (71 ballots). Distributed today were 89 ballots, hence a quorum is established.
 - c. 22 ballots of 35 ballots distributed to district officers

Motion to adopt agenda: Ed Parmeter, representing Club 580

Motion seconded

Without objection, moved to accept agenda

- IV. **November District Business Session Meeting Minutes:** Brion Keller, District Director
 - a. Administration Manager's minutes from Fall District Business Session were insufficient
 - b. Brion requested that Admin Manager provide additional minutes; however, Ray would not provide.
 - c. Brion supplemented minutes with additional information; two sets of minutes given to attendees.

Motion to adopt the minutes submitted by District Director Brion Keller – Jared Kronenberg
(Immediate Past District Governor)

Seconded

Further discussion:

- Cathy Schwab – Club 6499 – Propose to amend the minutes instead of striking Administration Manager's name from the minutes
- Sherry Hunt – Program Quality Director – propose to complete the minutes rather than leave them partially complete

Move to accept original motion – Eva Miller – Division B Director

Vote to accept minutes as amended by Brion Keller – 61

Vote to reject minutes as amended by Brion Keller – 39

Minutes so amended are accepted

- V. **Alignment Committee Report** – Jared Kronenberg – Immediate Past District Governor and Chair of Alignment Committee
- a. Discussion of requirements and protocols of alignment
 - b. Alignment committee comprised various Toastmasters and district officers
 - c. Discussion of changes and reasoning behind proposed changes:
 - i. Meeting location moves that were not included in last year’s alignment – this to ensure those clubs were within a reasonable distance from each other
 - ii. Prospective clubs charters / club loss
 - iii. Educational club cluster (colleges/universities)
 - iv. Maintain balance of no less than 4 and no more 6 clubs in each Area
 - d. Thanking of committee members
 - e. **Questions regarding alignment report:**
 - i. Kate Olsen (Past District Governor) – Request clarification around Simon Toastmasters move
 - ii. Jared response: geography, participation by members and district council

Motion to adopt the district alignment report as submitted – Greg Taylor (1345088)

Seconded

Further discussion:

- Timothy Shea (Division E Director): Request clarification regarding club perception of the move

Vote to accept alignment as included in report: Motion carries, alignment report accepted.

- VI. **Leadership Committee report:** Jared Kronenberg (Immediate Past District Gov; Leadership Committee Chair)
- a. Review of candidates for various district officer roles
 - b. Correction to Lillian Knight Faison designation (not DTM)
 - c. Acknowledgement of committee
 - d. Slate of candidates placed into consideration
 - e. Brion Keller, District Director, opens the floor for any elected position as listed in report:
 - i. Melvie Hall Bellinger (Club 6898) would like to nominate Robin Allen for Division D Director

Move to accept the slate of candidates as offered by acclamation – Timothy Shea (Division E Director)

Seconded

Vote to accept the slate of officers as offered accepted.

- VII. **Finance Report** – Chair calls on Julienne Ricchiazzi (Finance Manager)
- a. Currently under budget, have passed the six month audit
- VIII. **District Retention Committee Report** – Sam Mehta (Chair of District Retention Committee)
- a. **Member Retention Project (MRP):** Initiated in July of 2015, discussion of background, timeline, committee members, project approach, completion of exit interviews
 - b. Currently have a 59% retention rate in District 65. Prior year retention rate was 53%. Improvement being seen. Suggestions for actions provided.
- IX. **District Procedures Committee Report** – Linda Lathrop (District Procedures Committee Chair)

- a. Purpose of committee explained as being to review and recommend modification of procedures to district executive committee
 - b. Recommendations provided to district council (post procedures manual, include dates of procedures to determine history / necessity of modification, rotate district conference locations, streamline manual to reference current TI document versus rewriting it)
- X. **Revitalized Education Program Report** – Sam Mehta (Chief Ambassador, Revitalized Education Program)
- a. Updated information regarding the program has been distributed to the other 11 ambassadors. Recommended that we have TLI sessions around the program.
 - b. Program will not touch the originality, purpose, history, or tradition of Toastmasters. Not changing the core purposes or guiding principles of the current program; rather it will build on the best of what is already provided.
 - c. Program being tested by some clubs as pilots; learning projects completed and more than 800 members participated from 168 clubs, 78 districts, and 23 countries. All learning modules completed at least 3 times, more than 1200 positive responses received.
 - d. Tailored learning, transferrable skills, access to materials online and in print, expanded resources, strong mentorship and evaluation programs.
 - e. Next steps: testing, training, alpha testing, beta testing, program pilot to be completed by 3 districts by region on a rolling basis. (Currently unknown whether District 65 to be included or not).
 - f. Timeline: still unknown as TI is aiming a roll out to be as complete as possible. Currently 2017 marks the targeted roll out for regions and districts.
 - g. 2 years of overlap will be provided for all Toastmasters
- XI. **Senior District Officer Reports**
- a. **Roger Morehouse (PRM)**: not present, report posted on District 65 website
 - b. **Sherry Hunt (PQD)**: Objectives reviewed, status update provided, report submitted
 - c. **Ellen Pieklo (CGD)**: New club growth objectives and successes reviewed, prospective clubs outlined, working to keep challenged clubs.
 - d. **Brion Keller (District Director)**: Review of objectives
 - i. Objective to try to spend money to spend down account
 - ii. Held WebEx conference for one of the DEC meetings; travel costs nearly paid for the WebEx
 - iii. Incentives for district: District Pride Cup: giving to club that helps the district the most. Next year, the criteria will be determined by the new District Trio.
 - iv. Expression of appreciation to the fellow district council members
- XII. **New Business**: No new business brought to the committee.
- XIII. **Division Director Reports:**
- a. Debbie Hunt (Division A Director):
 - i. Happy to host the Spring District Conference
 - ii. Second largest division in District
 - iii. 21 active paid clubs

1. 6 Distinguished clubs (2 President's Distinguished, 2 Select, 2, Distinguished)
 - iv. 7 clubs at charter strength, started with 276 members, currently 236 members (Net loss 40)
 - v. Gained 94 members without adding new clubs.
 - vi. 4 clubs needing coaches
 - vii. More than 60 people attended division contests.
 - viii. Appreciation to Area Directors
- b. Eva Miller (Division B Director):
 - i. Focused on Public Relations, completed 3 contests in 3 areas in 1 day
 - ii. Report to be provided following district council meeting
- c. Greg Taylor (Division C Director):
 - i. Smallest division, 16 clubs – dropped one, added 2, net: 17
 - ii. 106% of clubs paid
 - iii. Membership: 250 members at beginning of year, 232 currently (dropped 18 members) (Retention rate: 92.8%)
 - iv. New members: added 103 members (increase over base is 41.2% over last year)
 - v. Net loss: 121 members, (- 7%)
 - vi. President's Distinguished – 2 clubs
 - vii. Only 4 clubs at charter strength – 9 clubs need coaches (more than 50% of clubs have 12 or less members).
 - viii. Waning contest interest in division, leadership reluctance, more open houses needed, need more showcase events with clubs, use more social media, need to build bigger team
 - ix. 7 area contests, 2 division contests (attended by approx. 60 attendees), PMI demo meeting
- d. Leo O'Connor (Division D Director):
 - i. Division D spread from Corning to Oneonta, only 1 club making distinguished
 - ii. Starting to communicate more, getting more volunteers
 - iii. Getting entire year planned with incoming Division Director
 - iv. Goal to achieve the biggest growth for coming year (2016 – 2017), additional coaching
- e. Timothy Shea (Division E Director):
 - i. Largest division in District 65; goal to become President's Distinguished
 - ii. 29 clubs (27 paid clubs); 16 clubs have met goals to be distinguished, however, only 6 clubs at charter strength.
 - iii. 14 clubs at 12 or fewer members (need club coaches).

XIV. **Announcements**

- a. **Next Conference:** Sherry Hunt, Program Quality Director
 - i. Fall Conference Chairs: Pat Costello, Juanita Rivera Ortiz
 - ii. November 5th, 2016, Syracuse Area – Genesee Grand Hotel
 - iii. Room rate: \$119; when block is gone, there won't be rooms left
 - iv. No other announcements from district council.

Meeting adjourned by District Director at 5:43pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Kelly Roland (Area 24 Director) as substitute Administration Manager.