

District 65 Toastmasters District Council

September 23, 2023

Meeting called to order by Ryan Kelly, Admin Manager at 9:01am.

Review of District Mission and Welcome read by Sam Otto, DTM

Acknowledgement of Past Dignitaries including Kate Olsen, Avis Brodie (past District Gover from District 86), and Brenda Billups. Brion Keller and Donna Sokolowski, also DTMs were recognized by Mr. Otto. Additionally, Mike Slick, a past District Governor was recognized. Linda Starr and Angela Schute both DTMs were recognized in attendance.

Credentials Report by Brion Keller, DTM-68 registered, but 42 is needed to establish Quorum. 53 of the 66 have shown up by 9am, plus 13 District ballots. 66 total votes. A simple majority of 34 was stated.

Review of Standing Orders/Voting Procedures by Bill Kirby, DTM. An overview of Election Runner (voting platform) was discussed and the ballots would be sent to the email addresses that attendees used to register for the meeting. Mr. Kirby discussed those with “weighted ballots” still only receive one ballot in the email. Voting is only allowed once, and participants are not allowed to share ballots. Mock vote launched to allow members to practice voting.

Review of Budget-The budget was created using the revenue information that was received from TI and this year’s revenue was expected to be \$24,273. This was slightly higher than last year due to the increase in dues. There is a smaller amount budgeted this year for the website, as well as the maintenance. The conference is expected to be in person in 2024. The numbers derived was based on numerous factors including prospective attendance, location, etc. The Club Growth Director position was vacant last year, so stronger membership/dues are expected this year. The PR Budget is related to the cost of the constant contact subscription. Lisa Garcynski moves to approved budget, Avis Brodie seconds.

Vote on Budget-60 votes were cast; 56 in favor, 4 were opposed. Percentage wise this was 93% to 7%. A simple majority of 34 was reached to vote in favor of the budget presented by Lisa.

Appointment Report-Appointments for the 2023-24 Toastmaster year were reviewed in detail, including Admin Manager, Parliamentarian, Audit Chair, etc. The Logistics Manager is vacant. Division and Area Directors were named by their respective territories.

District Leadership Chair Report-Kate Olsen will be appointing and confirming the members for the DLC or District Leadership Committee by December 1st. Information each month will be distributed in the newsletter outlining how one can nominate themselves or a fellow Toastmasters to be a District Officer. Talk to people who have served in the past, and what they have gained. It is something that will help you grow in ways you could never imagine.

Acceptance of Appointments Reports-Sam Otto asks for a motion to accept the 2023-24 Toastmaster District Officer appointments. Lisa Garczynski moves to accept the appointments as presented on the slide. Judy Britton seconds. A vote was called to accept the appointments as presented. 37 were in favor and 2 were opposed. Motion carries.

Audit Report presented by Donna Sokolowski, DTM- The Audit Committee looked to see that proper approvals were made to support financial expenditures, that the expenditures were properly and adequately supported by receipts, bills, and invoices. Expenses follow the Toastmasters International guidelines. First, individual expense reports were properly approved. Expenditures were supported by receipts, bills, and invoices, et cetera. The expenses followed Toastmasters International guidelines, and expenses were in line with the district 65 approved budget. A reliable backup record keeping system, which was retained on a Google Drive, has been implemented to ensure that vital district records are not accidentally lost and are easily accessible.

Finance Manager Report by Lisa Garczynski- Revenue was down. This shows a variance of \$1522 which is approximately 7%. This is due to a drop in the membership, but this was partially offset by \$494 that we received from another club that closed. Overall surplus ended the year with. \$4 ,128 roughly. This was due to smaller than expected club growth expenses. And we were also able to find cheaper trophies

PR Report by Keith Flint- For internal communication, focus continues to be our monthly newsletter. The newsletter has commentary from our district leaders, information about upcoming events, pathways, tips and tricks, and other general information. district events we published at least one month in advance with a

reminder being sent out a week in advance. Eventbrite or registration and we are still working to perfect that process. Averaging a 40% email open rate with our internal communications which is roughly the same as what we had last program year. Facebook and LinkedIn pages have been created to communicate with members. External communications include Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. We are posting content for the District 65 YouTube Page.

Club Growth Report by Rachel Dowling- There's still time to reach that five new members from August to September. The next Toastmasters Award for membership growth is in February, but don't let that stop you from growing your membership between now and then. For Speechcraft, we are gifting each club one speechcraft and paying for it. We only have one club with a club coach assigned. Encourages members to step up as a club coach if you have been a member of Toastmasters for more than a year. Encourages everyone to take the Club Coach training in Pathways. A goal to get one new club in each of the Divisions was discussed.

Program Quality Director Report by Avis Brodie- Sam, on behalf of District 65 was awarded with a 2022-23 “Excellence in Program Quality” award. 30 of our clubs achieved, distinguished or higher. Our goal is to earn the 2023-24 “Excellence in Program Quality” award. This year's goal to achieve that is 35 clubs or more achieving, distinguished, or higher. We train our club officers to help them provide excellent support and service to members. Club officer training sessions were conducted in June and July, and August, and the next ones will be coming in starting in December. Goal for the District is 100% Pathways adoption. Our district officer training ended up at 100% for every single district officer area division, every officer was trained. Learning Management System for 2024 was discussed. 6 paths being retained: Dynamic Leadership, Engaging Humor, Motivational Strategies, Presentation Mastery, Persuasive Influence and Visionary Communication.

Area, Division and District Speech contests are going to be held in person only. International and Evaluation contests will be the contests this coming year. The contests levels were asking for clubs to hold their contests in the month of January. Areas to hold their contest in the month of February. Division in March, and the district contest will be April 27th. We have a District 65 Chief Judge, Tina Darfee. We will be having a contest planning workshop; a judging workshop and contest chair scripts will be provided.

A poll was held to gather who may be interested in attending the District 65 Conference in 2024, which will be held in Rochester. 57% of the respondents said they were attending, and 43% said they were not attending.

District Director Report by Sam Otto-Sam started by expressing gratitude for individuals who have made their district activities smoother and more efficient. The recognition of Area 31 for their visit reports completion was emphasized. and Important upcoming dates for district events were shared. Sam then introduced the new international leadership team. He provided details about Zoom accounts for clubs, noting a 50% discount offer. The importance of a separate email for Zoom accounts to ensure smooth club access was stressed. Sam Otto encouraged division directors to collaborate with area directors for better coordination and support. Additional training and support for division directors was discussed.

The leadership and awards celebration will be held virtually on October 14th, 2023. The information will be sent out the week prior and be in the newsletter. The next district executive committee meeting will be held on December 2nd, 2023.

The next business meeting will be held virtually April 23rd, 2024, as we just voted. Our first in -person District 65 conference and induction will be held April 27th.

Meeting adjourned