



# District 65:

## District Council Meeting Minutes

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September 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Attendees: District Officers

Division and Area Directors, Club Presidents and VP Education

**Call to Order and District Mission** – Jackie Pilon, Administration Manager

*District Mission: We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.*

**Welcome and Acknowledgements** – Gillian Sheldon, DTM, District Director

**Adoption of Agenda** – Gillian Sheldon, DTM

- Joseph Gwizdaloski noted name correction on Minutes – d not e
- Motion - "I move to accept the agenda as presented / amended" by Jeannette Kreher Heberling; seconded by Joseph Gwizdaloski
- In Favor – Majority
- Not in favor – 0
- Agenda was accepted.

**Acceptance of previous District Council Minutes** – Gillian Sheldon, DTM

- Motion - "I move to accept the District Council Committee meeting minutes of April 24, 2025" by Joseph Gwizdaloski; seconded by Scott Schaefer
- In Favor – Majority
- Not in favor – 1
- Minutes were accepted.

**Meeting & Parliamentary Procedures: Floor Assignment and Speaking Protocol** - Avis

Brodie, DTM

- Use the "raise hand" feature to seek recognition.
- Must specify their intention (motion in favor or against) via private chat.
- Speaking time limited to a maximum of 10 minutes for debate or discussion.
- Each voting member can speak only once per question and is limited to one minute unless extended by the chair.
- Members must state their name, role, and position before speaking.

**Credentials Report** – Sam Otto, DTM PDD, Credentials Chair

### **Quorum and Ballot Details:**

- Quorum is established

### **District Officer Reports**

#### **District Director - Gillian Sheldon, DTM**

- Focus on 'Back to Basics'
  - Engaging with education program; focus on membership growth and retention; club officer training
- Goal – Select distinguished; 2,264 payments; 64 clubs; 31 distinguished clubs or better
- Club Success Plans are a requirement for DCP recognition – 23 submitted to date
- Area Visit Reports – 46% completed to date
- Encouraged assignment of club proxies for International Business meeting

#### **Program Quality Director - Scott Schaefer**

- Club Officer Training –
  - Phase 1 - 330 Club officer roles trained; 18 clubs with all 7 officers trained; 56 clubs with 4 or more officers trained; Division D has 100% club officers trained
  - Phase 2 – In person training is on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, with other online lunchtime and evening COT's available. Division's will also be running COT's online this program year.
- Toastmasters International - Pathways updates – meeting roles will now be a requirement at each level; Educational programming from the Successful Club Series, Better Speaker Series and Leadership Excellence Series will now be part of Levels 3, 4 and 5.
- D65 Pathways – 88% of D65 members are enrolled in Pathways; 53% have 90% or more enrolled; 25% clubs have 100% members enrolled. 100 members still to sign up for the education program; 400 members still to complete Level 1. 89 educational awards achieved since July 1, 2025 – 36 clubs achieved at least one educational award.
- District Conference – Scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Buffalo, NY at Buffalo Niagara Marriot (Millersport Hwy). Keynote – Luisa Montalvo, 2024 World Champion Public Speaking.
- District Level Contests – Tall Tales on November 22, 2025; Humorous Speech on May 1, 2026 and International Speech Contest on May 2, 2026.
- Education Series – provided update on educational workshops – visit D65 events calendar for details – <https://tmdistrict65.org/calendar/>

#### **Club Growth Director - Jeannette Kreher Heberling, DTM**

- Reminder that Membership Renewals are due by September 30, 2025 – renew now! Long way to go – please remind your clubs
  - To date, 440 renewals; 122 from Division A, 131 from Division C and 187 from Division D.
- Club Coaches – clubs with 12 or less members are eligible for club coaches; Coaches are needed, please reach out to Jeannette if you are interested.
- Suspended clubs – one club is suspended and one near suspension
- New club prospects and leads – 8 identified prospects and several leads/ ideas; reach out to Jeannette if you have a lead/ interest in chartering a club.

- What can you do:
  - Host quality meetings
  - Onboard new members
  - Provide club leads
  - Focusing your energy is vital to engagement
  - Schedule a Moments of Truth meeting
  - Schedule an Open House event
  - Grow your membership with Speechcraft
  - Complete club visits early (Area Directors)
  - Attend Club Officer Training and other education workshops
  - ASK FOR HELP
- Help needed for CGD Team – Club Coach Chair; Club Mentor Sponsor Chair; Club Retention Chair; Club Extension Chair

**Public Relations Manager** – Richard Teel, Public Relations Manager

- Help needed for PRM Team – social media updates; newsletter; identifying/ organizing local communications; video editing; graphic artist
- Outline of internal communications – newsletter; District website; facebook group. Target audiences and purpose
- External communications include facebook, linkedin, Instagram, YouTube and District website.
- PR schedule includes monthly newsletter prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month; workshop reminders (as needed) and social media posts a few times a month
- Provided outline of social media and PR tips as well as District QR codes

**Audit Report** - Nathan Rathbun, Audit Committee Chair

- Provided outline of Audit committee, reporting period and audit testing performed
- Audit results were presented:
  - Individual expense reports were properly approved and supported by receipts, invoices, etc.
  - Expenses were mainly in compliance with Toastmasters International guidelines with a few exceptions:
  - Year-end variances from budgeted amounts have not yet been completed. Toastmasters International has not provided the documents to the District Finance Manager. The documents will be reviewed by the Audit Committee when completed.

**Finance Manager** – Keith Flint, Finance Manager

- To date, WHQ not yet closed 2024-2025
- Budget for 2025-2026 to follow later in this meeting.

Motion: “I move to receive the District Officer Reports as presented for information” by Sherry Thompson, Division C Director; seconded by Scott Schaefer, PQD

- In Favor – Majority
- Not in favor – 0

**New Business** – Gillian Sheldon, DTM, District Director

- **Confirmation of Leadership Appointments** – the slate of appointed officers was presented, including PQD, Finance Manager, PRM, Administration Manager, Parliamentarian, Alignment Chair, District Leadership Chair, Credentials Chair and Audit Chair, and all Area Directors.

Motion: “I move to accept the District Appointments as presented” by William Spizuoco, Area 46 Director; seconded by Jeannette Kreher Heberling, CGD

- In Favor – Majority
- Not in favor – 0

- **Future District Leadership: Fully or Partially Remote** – Outlined at the 2024 Board meeting where motion passed by Toastmasters International for 2025 onward to vote with respect to geographical location of future District Leaders at District Council; option for Districts to vote to elect or appoint fully or partially remote District leaders. This vote will remain in effect until changed by District Council.

Motion: “I move to accept the appointment of fully remote leaders as presented” by Joseph Gwizdaloski; seconded by Jeannette Kreher Heberling, CGD

- In Favor – fully remote – 85%
- In Favor - partially remote – 15%
- Not in favor – 0
- Fully remote motion carries

- **District Realignment** - Initiated by the Toastmasters International Board of Directors in 2024, several districts (Regions 1-7) will be realigned to create more robust Districts. Aim to go from 76 districts to 43, with an average club number between 84 to 150.
  - Comes into effect from July 1, 2026
  - District 65 will become part of a new District 53 – Connecticut (all except Fairfield County), Massachusetts (Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden districts), New York (north of Orange and Putnam counties), Vermont, Pennsylvania (borough of Sayre).
- District Realignment Team will be working on next steps
- Business operations for 2025-2026 will remain the same

**Budget Report** – Keith Flint, Finance Manager

- The proposed 2025-2026 Budget, prepared by the District Director and other Trio and leadership members was presented.

Motion: “I move to accept the District Budget for 2025-2026 as presented” by Richard Teel; seconded by Scott Schaefer, PQD

- In Favor – Majority
- Not in favor – 0
- Motion passed unanimously

**New Business** - Gillian Sheldon, DTM

- Avis Brodie, DTM PDG Immediate Past District Director outlined plans for the Leadership Summit & Fall Contest including keynote speaker Roger Caeser; happening November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Roberts Wesleyan University.
  - Day will include District Of the Year Awards
  - District Tall Tales Contest
  - Club Officer Training

Announcements – Gillian Sheldon, DTM

- Toastmasters International Convention, 2026 – Vancouver Canada from April 19 – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: “I move to adjourn” by Avis Brodie, DTM

- In Favor – Majority
- Not in favor – 0
- Motion passed unanimously

Adjourned at 9.07 pm