

Called to order

Reading of the District Mission by **Rosemary Wilson, District 8 Sergeant at Arms**

Adoption of Agenda: Motion was made by Dori Drummond, IPDG to move to amend the agenda to include a moment of silence for the 9/11 victims; second by Brian Parsons, Area 6 Governor. Motion was then made by Dori Drummond, IPDG to adopt the agenda with the International Report [from the August DEC meeting] removed; seconded by Debra Morrissey, Area 8 Governor.

Quorum Report by Dori Drummond, IPDG: quorum was met

Secretary Report by Kat Mokriakow: No discussion; adopted minutes from DEC meeting/August 21st, 2010 as is. Adopted minutes will be posted on the district website for review.

Treasurer Report by Terry Rolan: Treasury report was unavailable due to account information just being received in the district and there was not enough time to create a report. This information will be available at the next DEC meeting. Tim Spezia reported that currently, District 8 accounts are frozen due to bookkeeping from the 2010 Spring Conference has not been submitted to the District 8 Audit Committee for auditing purposes. Tim Spezia, DG mentioned that this will not affect educational awards being submitted from the district to Toastmasters International; just district materials cannot be purchased. Terry Rolan, District Treasurer shared that Frank Yates, Area 7 Governor has created a PDF file of the expense report voucher on the District website. This report can be filled in on the computer and then printed. District officers can still submit a handwritten copy as well.

Public Relations Report: Tim Spezia, DG mentioned that he submitted a list of the current VPPR of all clubs in the district to Jeanette Lynch, D8 PR. Tim also mentioned he outlined which are community and which are corporate clubs in order for Jeanette to handle the different publicity needs. Tim mentioned that he would like Jeanette to use the angle of the television show on Channel 4 that was reported on by John Barry at the August DEC meeting. An example would be to have an interview for the 2010 Fall Conference being held at Harrah's and possibly a representative at Harrah's would be willing to give an interview on the district conference to the media. This would be an example of free advertisement that could be created within our district to get the message out of Toastmasters. Tim asked for a copy of any advertisement/media time from D-8 Toastmasters to be submitted to him and Jeanette to share with the district and to keep a record.

District 8 Banner was displayed by Tim Spezia to show the Ribbon that was given to District 8 for achieving Distinguished District 3 years in a row. Tim Spezia challenged the current district officers to achieve the same distinction to keep the momentum going as the past 3 years.

Division A Report Lora Mather, Division A Governor:

Division A held a division council meeting that brought the area governors together where team work was felt. This past month, all our clubs have at least 4 officers trained. Contests are set and commitments are made to support each other. Educational goals for Division A: at least 22 awards are posted with 11 of them being advanced awards, 5 CC's and 5 CL's. This total represents 8 clubs in all 4 areas in Division A. Membership is on the rise in Division A as well. Area Governors are making not only their first visit, but also making second visits and it is showing in membership growth.

Questions: Tim Spezia, DG asked if Division A needs any assistance and Lora, Division A Governor stated that assistance is needed for the Area and Division Contests.

Division B Report *Jacquie Vick, Division B Governor:*

Educational awards and new members are being submitted for Division B. 21 out of 30 clubs are at charter strength. Division B contest-October 16th location is still to be determined. A few clubs have decided not to hold club contests, but may send representation from their club to the Area and Division contests. All Area Governors have made contact with their respective clubs and have made unofficial visits and are now in the process of making their official visits and a few reports have been posted on the Toastmasters International website. Wayne Allen, Area 20 Governor held an Area Council Meeting via conference call; all 6 clubs in area 20 were represented on the conference call. In order to create harmony within Division B, a division newsletter is going to be created. This newsletter will highlight what is happening in various clubs within Division B and may create a little competition. No official date has been set as yet. 21 out of 30 clubs have met minimum requirement of 4 officers trained, 4 of those clubs have all 7 officers trained. Club Challenges: Area 3 Team Talk and Area 13 Cable Talk - no officers were trained, low membership and clubs are not interested in receiving a club coach. Area Governors are attempting to reach these clubs to assist them however they can. Area 16 Psuedo-Corp and Area 20 City of St Peters-no club officers were trained and clubs have no interest in Toastmasters outside their club setting. In Area 3, The Cent Louie Toastmasters Club, which meets at Centocor Biologics LLC, is in the process of a possible buyout and there may be a lot of changes. Currently, Cent Louie club member's membership is paid by the company, but it is in discussion to stop this process and members will be responsible to pay their own dues. Area 18- a few have low membership and a couple clubs do not have officers trained; Jacquie will follow-up with Albert Fields, Area 18 Governor to see if this can be resolved. Division B Council meetings are being held on a monthly basis via conference calls and all issues will be followed up on. Jacquie mentioned progress is being made with Team Talk for the current club president has invited Bridgette Dorsey, Area 3 Governor to give a speech to the club on the 15th of January, but the club president doesn't want any contact prior to this time with the AG.

Division C Report *Larry Hemingway, Division C Governor:*

Report was presented by Brian Parsons, Area 6 Governor in the absence of Larry Hemingway. Div C Governor. In Area 1-3 out of 7 clubs have at least 4 club officers trained, Area 6- 5 out of 7 have 4 officers trained, Area 10 has 2 out of 8 clubs with 4 officers trained. Larry Hemingway and the area governors are contacting the various clubs to see what assistance is needed to get officers trained and to increase membership. Area and Division contests are scheduled.

Suggestion for Division C: Dori Drummond, IPDG, suggested enticing more officers to be trained by hosting a TLI Satellite make-up session in Decatur, IL. This makeup session will reach Effingham, Virden and Decatur officers. Springfield officers will attend the TLI Satellite and the metro-east will attend the main TLI, but the eastern half of the division is being left out.

Division E Report *Cynthia Scroggins, Division E Governor:*

Area 7-All [club] contests have been completed. Area 7 contest is set for September 18th in Columbia. Area 14 - several [club] contests have been completed. Area 14 contest will be September 25th in Waynesville. Area 21 all club contests have been completed and the Area 21 contest will be held on September 17th. Club visits are being completed and Cynthia would like to commend Frank Yates, Area 14 Governor for making contact with all his clubs, except 1 and he lives 2 -3 hours away from them. All

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the clubs in Area 14 have only around 10 members, but 2 of them have submitted CC's and have new members in the club. Division Contest will be held on October 23rd.

Division F Report *Raymond Allen, Division F Governor:*

Debra Morrissey, Area 8 Governor has made and reported all club visits. Area 8 contest is set for September 18th. Area 8-Missouri Toast of the Town is not meeting regularly, but are looking to begin meeting regularly again on September 15th. No officers were trained. Debra Morrissey has volunteered to be a club coach for them and John Murphy will be working closely with Debra to get this club back on track. Lawson Calhoun, Area 12 Governor, contest is set for September 22nd. No club visits have been made as yet but the dates have been selected for attendance. Brian Davenport, Area 15 Governor contest date is set for September 25th-same day as Sandy Kardis, Area 19 Governor. No club visits have been made as yet, but the dates have been selected for attendance. Sandy Kardis, Area 19 Governor, has 7 clubs and all club visits and reports have been made. In Area 19, a possible issue may arise from a new club, Moneta Group Toastmasters that does not want assistance from the district. No club officers were trained. Tom (Coscia), LGET and Sandy will be visiting the club to offer some suggestions. Division Contest will be held October 30th, Wells Fargo at 9:30 am.

Public Relations Report by *Jeanette Lynch:* Jeanette is working closely with the various clubs to understand the working differences between open and closed clubs. Also, Jeanette is looking to spread the word that Toastmasters can be incorporated into their performance reviews at their companies.

New Club Coach Report by *John Barry:* 1 new club chartered this Toastmaster year, Memorial Health Systems-a major hospital in Springfield, IL. A few leads from last year, Ameren and Scott Trade can support a Toastmasters club. Grassroots leads are leads from within District 8. Carole Breckner is hosting a Speech Craft at St Anthony's and will be holding a demo meeting at the end. Lake St Charles senior retirement home would like a demo meeting soon. Universities have a special challenge due to students going home in the summer, but there is also an untapped opportunity as well. At Truman State University they are desirous of holding 2 demo meetings this month. This location is in Kirksville, in northern Missouri. Tim Spezia is their contact person. In Macomb, IL, the Western Illinois University would like to have a Toastmaster club in their University. Missouri College of Clayton is looking for a demo meeting. Blackburn College in Illinois is also interested. Mission for this year is to take all the leads presented, host a demo meeting and get the potential club chartered. Only 1 club was carried over on the bubble from last Toastmaster year, so there is a challenge in the district to get leads and bring them to charter. John asked the DEC if they have any suggestions for a club to bring them to Carole Breckner, Curtis Scroggins or himself to follow up on.

Club Extension Coach Report by *John Murphy:* Successes- offer was presented to mentor club coaches on a monthly basis but only 1 has taken this offer. John wrote an article for the District 8 Newsletter to be sent out tomorrow. John has spoken at Rent-A-Toast Toastmasters club, 40 people were in the audience and John promoted coaching. This is the 4th club John has spoken at to promote coaching and no one has taken the offer to be a club coach. Area 9 Governor, Aruna Garlapaty, Area 9 Governor and the Area 9 Assistant Mike Kotur has shown an interest in being a club coach. Pam Melloway, Area 7 Governor would like to be appointed as coach for The Ozark Orators. Missouri Toast of the Town has accepted Debra Morrissey, Area 8 Governor as their club coach. The newsletter, club Coach Weekly has been posted 10 times. An update of the Just Us Toastmasters is as follows: John contacted the officers and members and the decision is there is an opportunity for a club coach to rebuild this club. John is working on finding coaches to help them rebuild.

Marketing Report Curtis Scroggins, Lt Governor Marketing:

Report is divided into 3 parts - Membership, New Clubs and Newsletter. 1) Membership-142 membership payments to date, the districts goal is 4,513. Renewals have not been submitted as yet so this number will climb expediently by the end of this month. The goal's percentage currently is 3%. The Smedley Award is still running currently. The club will receive a ribbon [to place on their banner] and a 10% discount to the Toastmasters online store. If you are promoting this to your clubs, please be sure to mention the discount is only good for 6 months. 2) A new club potential is Lincoln College in Lincoln County, IL; there are about 12 people interested at this point. The contact is a former member of the McBrian-Lincoln Douglas club in Springfield, IL. There will be a demo meeting later in September at this location. FRB is another potential club; Debra Morrissey, Area 8 Governor and Tim Spezia, DG is working on this lead. The Farmington Correctional Center is another lead. Contacts are Tim Spezia and Jerry Hoeflein. Columbia Public Library, Kenneth Freeman is the contact. Presently, they are holding presentations on a quarterly basis and they are encouraging a Toastmasters club to be chartered there. Carole Breckner is working on contacts in St Clair and Greenville. Peabody and Panera [Bread] are also potential leads as well. 3) Communic~8-hopefully this will be distributed either today or tomorrow [September 11th or 12th]. Last revisions are underway and should be released soon.

Question for Marketing: Raymond Allen, Division F Governor asked if there is a list of closed clubs from the past that members or district leaders can assess as potential clubs now. John Barry and Tim Spezia both concur there is no list available. Tim stated that usually when these clubs close up; it is difficult to contact the past members, so this would not be a useful list to keep. Curtis will also contact Toastmasters International to see if they might have a list to offer.

Education and Training Report Tom Coscia, Lt Governor Education and Training:

All contests have been scheduled and Tom encourages all district officers to assist each other when possible. Fall Conference schedule on November 12th and 13th. The Communic~8 will have a flyer and registration available as well as details and presenters. Educational awards year to date: 8 ACB, 1 ACG, 4 ACS, 12 ALB's, 3 ALS's, 22 CC's, and 21 CL's. 1 DTM – earned by Dossie [DJ] Randle.

District Report Tim Spezia, District 8 Governor:

At the last DEC, Tim challenged the DEC officers to work on completing an Advanced Leadership Award, such as an ALB. This will assist the district as well as establish creditability for the district officer. All district training is complete and will be posted shortly. There were 17 clubs that had 7 officers trained. This is a phenomenal number. Those clubs will receive a set of manuals from the Toastmasters Bookstore. The club will be able to select from the Successful Club Series Set, the Better Speaker Series Set or the Leadership in Excellence Set. The value is \$30.00 to \$65.00. This will be for each officer training session. If the clubs already have the manuals offered, the DG and LGET will work with the club to make another selection. There were 16 with 6 officers trained and a large number with 5 and 4 officers trained. 70% of the district was trained. 22 clubs had zero officers trained this time around. Tim stated it is important to get the message out to the officers, especially new clubs, to attend training so they don't lose the DCP point. Club officers are required to attend training at both sessions. Tim stated that he would like for all area and division contests to promote the 2010 Fall Conference for there are a lot of exciting things happening at the conference. Sam Silverstein will be a guest who will present a keynote speech, as well as receive the Communication and Leadership Award [C & L Award] from

District 8 for his excellence in promoting communications within the community. Tim Spezia would like to see a high attendance for this event.

No Old Business

New Business – Question: Should the District continue to support the 800 Hotline? Tim Spezia, DG asked the question if there is a beneficial business need to keep this line in use. Question from Tim Spezia, DG to Dawn Tucker [Hotline Chair], how many calls are made each month? According to a report from Dawn Tucker, Hotline Chair : January-zero calls, February- 3 calls, March – 1 call, April – 3 calls, May – 1 call, June – 1 call, July – zero calls and August – 2 calls. The numbers of calls are very low. Next question: what is the nature of the calls? Dawn Tucker: If they ask a Toastmasters question, she answers it. Dawn records the phone number of the caller and submits this information, along with the bill, to the District Treasurer. There is no record of the name of the caller or the nature of the call. This service costs the district \$125.00 a month for an answering service. Tim Spezia states in order to support this cost, we should be receiving around 10-12 calls a month and these calls should be resulting in growth of our clubs. Tim called for the DEC to propose a motion to check into the probability of continuing this service. Dori Drummond, IPDG made a motion to the floor to move to terminate the subscription of the District 8 hotline and to remove all advertising of this number such as in the yellow pages. Tony Gartner, Past District Governor seconded. **Discussion:** we have had this service for around 15 - 20 years and Frank Yates, Area 14 Governor, would like to know how many calls we used to get on a monthly basis. Tim Spezia stated that there are probably some who know, but the main concern is to ensure the removal of the advertisements so we don't have people upset when they do try to call a number no longer in service. There are also bumper stickers with this number on them, so these will need to be replaced by bumper stickers with the website address posted on them. Tim Spezia stated that there should be a specific date this goes into effect so execution is delivered in a timely fashion. Jacquie Vick, Division B Governor shared that the district is not consistent in advertising to keep Toastmasters in the community eye. As long as we are inconsistent then the hotline would not be effective. Jacquie also stated not all people we are trying to reach, are internet savvy, so we need to be mindful of how we can reach them. Lora Mather, Division A Governor, stated that if we make a decision to terminate the hotline number, there are very smart minds around the district leadership table to come up with another more effective solution for people to reach us. Lora advocates in favor of dropping the hotline number as soon as possible. Rosemary Wilson, District Sergeant at Arms made a recommendation for clubs to update their information for people to access. Rosemary also mentioned that Twitter, Facebook and yellowpages.com are the way of the future and District 8 Toastmasters needs to move with the times. Currently, District 8 is not on Facebook, but Toastmasters International is. Rosemary Wilson suggested that a committee member be appointed to set up and maintain this daily. Jeanette Lynch, District PRO, mentioned what we are trying to solve first and then move on what mechanisms we need. Darlene Sutter, Area 5 Governor shared that we need to get the word out of Toastmasters and we need to choose the most effective way to do so. Dori Drummond, IPDG, made a motion to amend her motion to read that we terminate the 800 hotline subscription on or around

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January 1st, 2011 with the specific date to be determined by the District 8 Top Trio [Tim Spezia, Tom Coscia and Curtis Scroggins]. Tony Gartner seconded. Tony then rescinded his second for Tony is not a voting member of the District. Lora Mather, Division A Governor seconds. All were in favor of the motion to move the motion by Dori Drummond.

Announcements: Dori Drummond, IPDG made the announcement that the Grand Celebration party for obtaining Select Distinguished District is set for September 19th between 2 -4 pm and Dori is asking for RSVP's to be submitted by September 12th if at all possible.

Training Session: Club Coaching by John Murphy