



District 8 Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for March 7, 2015

Call to order by Stuart Welter, ACS, ALB, SAA

Adoption of Agenda: Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Larry Kimbrow, Area 5 Governor; seconded by Rob Van Winkle, Area 4 Governor.

Secretary Report by Sandy Kardis: Sandy Kardis distributed the October Meeting minutes in an email prior to the DEC meeting for review. Motion to adopt the report was made by Carol Steinbach, Division B Governor; seconded by James Childress, Area 6 Governor.

Credentials Committee Report, Lora Mather, DTM, IPDG

A quorum was not met with 16 members, 1 shy of 17 quorum. Looking for nominations for the elected roles in District (top 3 spots and division governors). Send nominations for Area Governors to Sandy.

Division Team Reports

Division F Governor: Regina Dennis, DTM

Accomplishments since the last DEC:

- Torchmasters Club at Missouri College was re-instated in January, 2015. This was a tremendous success for the club that worked tirelessly to recruit members, elect officers and work closely with Toastmasters International for reinstatement. Area Governor worked closely to support Torchmasters' re-instatement. Club is continuously recruiting new members.
- Division F Council Meeting was held in November. Agenda items discussed included membership retention approaches, promoting club mentorship programs, following-up with clubs on Distinguished Club Plans, and completing club visits, submitting form on-line and its contribution to achieving the District plan. District Success Plan Summary was discussed. Talk Up TM and Beat the Clock were also discussed.
- Division Governor has participated in club visits/contests at club or area levels in Areas 12, 15, and 17. During visits promotes Toastmasters skills by pointing benefits; encourage members to attend district level events to network and understand that there is a dynamic District beyond their club.
- Division F Make-Up training was held on February 7, 2015 where 32 club officers were trained.

Areas Update (Status of Area Visits, Council Meetings, Successes, etc):

Area 8: Area Governor is scheduling the official second round of club visits. Spring Contest is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 6:45 pm and preparations are underway. Two clubs are eligible for coaching: Toast of SLU and Open Line.

Area 12: Spring contest is scheduled for Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 pm.

Area 15: Provides regular weekly updates on activities in the club and highlights division and district events. All 5 second round AG visits have been completed and submitted to TI. A minimum of four officers from each club have

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received training for both periods. All five clubs have a spring club contest scheduled. Spring contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 am. All clubs are tracking nicely with the Distinguished Club Plan. Wells Fargo 5 pts, Primary Conversations 4 pts, Toast US and Speaking of Us 3 pts each and Sigma Aldrich 2 pts. Area 15 is striving for excellence. An Area 15 Council meeting was held Jan 25, 2015 in which four of five clubs participated. The last Area 15 Council meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2015. Area Governor is currently mentoring Toast of the Fleet and attends club and officer meetings. This club plans to hold its Spring Contest on March 25, 2015.

Area 17: Area Governor's second round of club visits will commence in April. Area Contest is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 at 6:45 pm. Two of the four clubs have five or more Distinguished Club points.

Area 19: Area Governor is scheduling the official second round of club visits in March and April. Spring Contest scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 pm. Area Governor has received notices of club contests being scheduled for February and early March.

Specific victories since the last DEC (Open House, Club Charters, etc):

Area 15: Speaking of Us TM club held an Open House on Jan 22, 2015. As a result, the club received four new member applications which are being processed. Primary Conversations plans to hold an OpenHouse on April 14, 2015. ToastUS plans to hold an Open House and "Bring your Boss Day" in Mar./April 2015. Wells Fargo Advisors plans to hold "Bring Your Boss Day" on March 18, 2015. Wells Fargo has a Management Appreciation Day set for March 11, 2015. In response to a question by the Area Governor at the DEC if these days could be considered Open Houses, the response was yes.

Area 19: Voices in Unity developed a report on a CL tracking sheet in meetings.

Specific challenges that needs to be addressed by Area (candidates for coaching, visits, etc.):

Area 8: Open Line and Toast of SLU are eligible for club coaching.

Area: 17: Area Governor has made numerous attempts to contact the Let's Talk club. Area Governor reached out to DG and was advised to wait and see if club pays their April 1 renewal dues. dues by April 2015. Area Governor and District will seek to get back the Toastmasters' banner.

Area 19: Rubin Brown requested TI to close the club and has been suspended.

New Club Leads:

Area Governor 8 and Division Governor reviewing offices/companies to expand TM downtown.

Division C Governor: Tom Gillard, ACG, ALB

Accomplishments since the last DEC:

Two demonstration meetings were conducted at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois. The first meeting had over fifteen in attendance, and the second meeting had nine. Of the nine who attended the second meeting, seven paid their dues. Once the college issues the check for \$125, the group will send in its money and begin having meetings in prospective status with the goal of building to twenty members and chartering.

Areas Update (Status of Area Visits, Council Meetings, Successes, etc):

Area 1: Two clubs have completed 4 goals and have the membership base upon renewals to be distinguished. The Smedley Hometown Memorial Club has 17 members and 5 goals. With three more members, it can reach Distinguished status.

Area 6: Two clubs in Area 6 have completed 4 goals and the potential to be Distinguished with the membership base. Scott Toastmasters have completed 6 goals and 4 new members have joined since February 1st. With one more member joining, the club can get the Talk Up Toastmasters award.

Area 10: One of the clubs in the area have achieved 5 goals. With the growing membership base, it has the potential to be distinguished.

Area 11: St. Clair Toastmasters will be conducting an Open House on Thursday, March 12th. It is going to be a cooperative effort of area clubs to build membership. The Collinsville Toastmasters have also designed a club newsletter and this month featured an interview with one of the members.

Specific victories since the last DEC (Open Houses, Club Charters, etc.):

The Youth Leadership Program conducted at Mascoutah High School with the Junior ROTC students started again in February. They will be having a graduation in May. Robert Dandridge is conducting a Youth Leadership Program with the Civil Air Patrol Chapter that meets on Scott Air Force Base. Tom Gillard presented Toastmasters at a National Military Contractors Association meeting. Multiple leads were gained as a result of this effort.

Division A Governor: Adam Kutell, ACG, ALB

In Division Governor's absence – Dan Darnell, Area 2 Governor gave updates.

Accomplishments since the last DEC:

Division A Contests are scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2015. Briefings are at 9:45 am. Contests are at 10:00 am at Tesson Ferry Branch - St. Louis County Library located at 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123.

Areas Update (Status of Area Visits, Council Meetings, Successes, etc):

Area 2: We held the Area 2 Spring Contests on 3/3/15. Thanks to all that helped! There was an increased participation from the clubs.

Area 4: 4 of 6 Clubs have had at least 4 officers trained. Area 4 Governor conducted Membership training at the January TLI held at Washington University. Area 4 Spring Contests are scheduled for March 28, 2015 at 9:00 AM (Briefings 9:15 AM; Contest starts at 9:30AM) at the St. Louis County Library - Cliff Cave Branch, Telegraph Rd.

Area 5: Area Governor conducted Spring 2015 Club Officer Training for five officers at Poplar Bluff on February 26.

Area 5 Spring Contests are scheduled for March 28, 2015 at 10:00 AM at The Bread Company, 1385 N. Westwood, Poplar Bluff, MO.

Area 9: 5 out of 6 clubs have trained 4 or more officers in the Nov-March period. The Area 9 contest is Saturday, March 28th at Unigroup. Briefing at 9, contest at 9:30 a.m. Area Governor is actively working to fill functionaries. Area Governor has done three unofficial visits to clubs to 'get acquainted'.

Specific victories since the last DEC (Open Houses, Club Charters, etc.):

Area 2: Chesterfield TM #6629 added its 20th member this week. MasterToasters #4431 & West County TM #2905 continue to meet & exceed club goals. Both are on track for President Distinguished.

Area 4: Area Governor conducted 3 unofficial club visits and has 2 more planned for the coming 2 weeks. Word Masters is attempting to rebuild this club in the Arnold area (formerly met in South County area) - in progress.

Specific challenges that needs to be addressed by Area (candidates for coaching, visits, etc.):

Area 2: ROi TM # 3447931 and Mercy TM #3040101 are all in a rebuilding mode. Their energy is high and progress is being made. Area Governor is working with the clubs to use their club plans as action plans for their success. ROi is still in the "Do it yourself" stage. Area Governor is working with them on how the District can support them.

Area 4: Only 2 Area 4 Clubs are at Charter Strength (20 members or more); 1 club is near 20 (at 17). Need to continue to plug Franklin County Club in community events, etc. to build club membership. Need to identify an Area 4 Director for coming term of office.

Area 5: The major on-going challenge is the geographical distance between the clubs. The closest club (Cape Girardeau) to my home club (Poplar Bluff) is 90 miles (1 ½ hours) away and the next closest clubs are John A. Logan and Marion Veteran Medical Center(each are located in Illinois) 140 miles (2 ½ hours) away. Although it will not lessen the distance to the furthest clubs, our goal is to charter more clubs in the larger population centers in southeast Missouri and southwest Illinois.

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How can the District help (Specific ways in which the District can help make your Division better):

Area 2: Chesterfield TM #6629 is looking for several experienced TM to help mentor newer members on how the meeting roles should be run. The club is in a rebuilding stage. The current President is doing all the mentoring himself.

New Club Leads:

Area 5: Working on starting a new club in Sikeston, Missouri. It was originally planned to be a “closed club” for a non-profit organization; however, they have since decided that membership would be larger if they opened it to the public. My goal is to have it chartered during this Toastmaster Year (2014-2015).

Division B Governor: Carol Steinbach, ACB, ALB

Division Governor Accomplishments since the last DEC:

- Carol taught President training at the early bird training session to 19 people! She hosted an officer makeup training session on Feb. 28. She is pleased to state that her Area Governors completed all of their club visits and reports for the first half of the year and already have several of their visits completed for the second half.
- She has all of her Areas and her Division contests on the District 8 calendar already with her Division B contest scheduled for April 25th at the Bridgeton Trails branch of the SLCL.
- Carol is wrapping up her coaching effort with the River City club. They are well on their way to Presidents Distinguished this year and have increased their membership to 23!
- She is also helping Chris Rigdon with the District 8 Spring Conference by co-chairing the speech contests.

Areas Update (Status of Area Visits, Council Meetings, Successes, etc.):

Area 3: Ron’s area contest is scheduled for March 28th.

Area 13: Pat’s area contest is scheduled for March 21st.

Area 16: Gail’s area contest is scheduled for April 11th.

Area 18: Camesha’s area contest is scheduled for March 28th.

Area 20: Will’s area contest is scheduled for April 11th.

Division E Governor: Kenneth Freeman, DTM

A guest, Erin Tucker who is a member of Columbia Toastmasters in Area 7, gave Area 7 Lorie Kaplan’s report.

Areas Update (Status of Area Visits, Council Meetings, Successes, etc.):

Lorie has visited Downtown, Columbia, and Capital clubs but needs to submit the reports to Toastmasters International. She needs to schedule her Area Governor visits with Callaway and Lincoln. She has scheduled her Area Governor visit to the Alpha Club. She is bringing 10 – 12 visitors from the Columbia Toastmasters Club to visit and participate in a speech contest with Alpha Club members. No council meeting to report.

Her successes include 3 clubs with 25 or more members, 3 clubs with 8 goals completed, and several clubs holding open house events this month.

Education and Training/Club Officers Trained/Contesting Report by Farzana Chohan, DTM

Newsletter is on District 8 website blog – check it out.

TLI January 10, 2015

- 223 Total Attendees
- 285 Total Trained Officers – for all training programs
- Laid out metrics for number officers trained in clubs
- To get full credit for 7 officers trained – need both rounds of training.

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- Rob Van Winkle asked if feedback came back. Farzana will send out.

Contesting

- Contest Season for International Speech and Evaluation – All Area Contests set-up.
- Try to space out contest per procedures manual.

Next TLI is June 20, 2015. Details to be announced.

Spring Conference is May 29-30th. Location was changed to Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel.

Marketing/Club Coaching/Membership Report by Jacquie Vick, DTM

In LGM's absence, Sandy presented her report.

Membership

The year's goal for Paid Clubs is 112. Encourage clubs to collect/submit dues prior to the April first date. Member payments to date are 2373. 4628 is the number needed to earn Distinguished for this goal.

Club Leads

There have been 25 club leads to Date. We have 1 chartered club - Toast of the Fleet. Two clubs are in the process of completing paperwork - MO Regional Bootheel Consortium in Sikeston, MO (Division A / Area) and Brewer Science (Division E / Area). Ozark Orators Club is working with Brewer Science. The status of Mercy Hospital remains unknown. Division Governors were asked to identify/submit the names of five companies to send a district kit. To date no one has done so. Promotional items are displayed at all demo meetings to support creating awareness about Toastmasters.

Club Coaches

Currently, 37 clubs have 12 or fewer members. To her knowledge, all clubs requesting a club coach have had one assigned. Area Governors should encourage these clubs to seek assistance. If you know of anyone interested in serving in this capacity, please let her know.

Dan Darnall asked about status from demo at Crosby Chiropractors. Sandy shared that they are waiting for more members. A second demo is being rescheduled.

Public Relation Report by Gina Willard, DTM

Gina shared information about an Open House Contest. A flyer is ready. The dates for the contest are March 15 - May 15th. We are looking for the most members gained from an open house. Club needs to keep a guest list and membership. Winners will be notified by end of May. Awards will be given out in June to top 5 clubs.

Gina addressed several questions: Information be on District website and emailed to club officers. A theme oriented open house is O.K. The District does not need to be notified of an open house. An open house should be scheduled at the club level for the contest. A club can have more than one open house.

We are looking for millennial members to capture their story. We are trying to get more into social media such as LinkedIn, Blog, and Twitter.

Treasurer's Report by Richard Porter, ACS, ALS

Sandy announced that if Richard not in attendance, it was due to work. Mail Richard if need reimbursement immediately.

Discussion Groups: Area Governors and Division Governors

Sandy led a group discussion on contest best practices.

District Governor Report by Sandy Kardis, DTM, DG

Sandy presented a status on our 3 major district goals. Our paid clubs base is 108, and we are currently at 105. The 6 suspended clubs are included in the 105, and I have been informed 2 clubs will not pay April dues. 112 paid clubs is the requirement for distinguished. Our payments base is 4,493. It has been steadily increasing. 2,373 is now a reflection of clubs beginning to submit April 1 renewal dues. We need 4,628 for Distinguished. I encourage Area Governors to follow-up with clubs to promote early payments. 30 clubs have 5 or more goals. 44 are needed for distinguished. This does not take into account the membership requirement. Sandy asked if they knew of anyone who is close to earning a DTM. There is 1 new DTM since November.

While reading an area governor report, Sandy noticed the mention of teleconferencing. Sandy brought to everyone's attention that at this time, video and teleconferencing are not considered a valid means of holding a club meeting, even if some of the members will be there in person and others will be using video or teleconferencing. As stated in current Policy & Protocol; Policy 2.0 Club and Membership Eligibility; Section 2 Club Minimum Requirements; Item B ([page 138](#)): *Regular meetings are conducted in-person*. Though it is under consideration, by the Board of Directors, at this time it is not an approved method of holding a meeting. Earlier in the year, Dan Darnall had contacted Toastmasters International about it.

Unfinished Business, Sandy Kardis, DTM, DG

Omer Roberts/Dori Drummond Scholarship Fund Committee

Committee co-chairs are Kenny Freeman and Cindy Larm. Kenny is handling fund raising ideas. Cindy is handling the history and has asked Dottie Carlson to provide testimonials from Talu Toastmasters. She planned to email all PDGs and treasurers by the end of February with a mid-March deadline and will then follow-up with a phone call. Curtis Scroggins and Lorie Kaplan are getting stories/testimonials from Alpha Toastmasters. Late yesterday I received the financial information from TI's Finance Dept.

New Business/Open Forum/Closing Announcements by Sandy Kardis, DTM, DG

Sandy recognized a number of stars in our DEC.

For Education Awards beginning July 1, 2015 – Alan Ayers (2), Ron Gossen (3), Elaine Curry (2), Dan Darnall (2), Tom Gillard (3), Sandy Kardis (1), Lora Mather (2), Rebecca Now (1), Richard Porter (2) and Jacquie Vick (1).

For First Round Area Governor Visits: Rick Maxwell, Dan Darnall, Ron Gossen, Rob Van Winkle, Larry Kimbrow, James Childress, Lori Kaplan, Laura Rebbe, Mark Strothmann, Pat Tyrrell, Ahmad Onuku, Lisa Cooksey-Cannon, Gail Vaucher, Chris Rigdon, Camesha Hill-Carter, Joe Krewson, Will Hayden, and Michelle Hinshaw. Division Governors: Adam Kutell, Carol Steinbach, Kenny Freeman, and Regina Dennis.

For Assistance with Demo Meetings: Ron Gossen, Lisa Cooksey-Cannon, Tom Gillard, Nate Randall, Chris Rigdon, Dan Darnall, Regina Dennis, and Farzana Chohan

Sandy asked the DEC to join the Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters meeting at 3:45 – 4:45 in Room 17.

Our next DEC meeting is April 11th at Missouri College. Your attendance is important for approval of the slate of district leaders, procedures manual updates, and club re-alignment.