



Minutes – Virtual District Council Meeting September 21, 2019  
Donna Seidel – Administration Manager

Meeting took place via Zoom.

James Childress, ACS ALB is District 8 Director

Parliamentarian is Tom Coscia, DTM PDG

Administration Manager (meeting minutes) is Donna Seidel, ACS ALB AM

Credentials Committee Report: Elaine Curry, DTM IPDD

52 District officers, we need 65 for a quorum, we have ??/?? which constitutes a quorum.

Elaine Curry, DD, entertains a motion to accept the Credentials Report.

Donna Seidel, AM, was unavailable for previous meeting and no minutes provided.

Finance Report – Tim Spezia

- Program year coming to an end.
  - Finance manager presented dialogue that he accepts the reports and accompanying receipts.
  - See Tim for any questions after or via email @ [tspezia@earthlink.net](mailto:tspezia@earthlink.net).

End-of-Year Audit Report - Richard Porter

- TI – District 8 Procedures Manual (financial section) is used as a guide

Tim Spezia, FM

- District Budget Approval vote (2019 – 2020)
- Geoff King, motion to accept the budget
- Adrienne Pluss, seconds the motion to accept budget
- Elaine Curry asked who is eligible to vote and confirm the quorum
- No quorum. Budget will be sent via email to get vote to satisfy quorum

James Childress, DD

- Appointed District Officers Confirmation
- Show ADs from website
- No objections. ADs for 2019-2020 are confirmed by unanimous consensus

Adrienne Plus - Division A report

- 14 clubs visited
- 14/20 clubs met goal for first club officer training goals
- Area 5 & ? – two potential new clubs
- Area 4 – one club might fold, no meetings after chartering
- Area 5 – only 7 active members, working to increase memberships
- Another Area 5 might be reassigned to Area 6
- Area 9 – closed group is struggling with retiring members

- Area 4 – only 8 members, advanced club, looking to grow
- Area 9 – club hosted a wellness fair to recruit
- Cape Girardeau club – celebrating 60 years!
- Area 5 co-chairs for Pathways
- 3+ members working towards DTM before end of 2019-2020
- Renewal goals on target
- DCP progress – all working toward Distinguished Plus
- Over 70% adoption rate of Pathways
- Suggestion for TI – offer options for retirees since Pathways is offered to those building their professional career skills

Chidu Suresh - Division B report

- 50-60% of club visits
- 12 club struggling with less than 20 members
- Following up on membership renewal

?? - Division C report

- UNAVAILABLE

Angela Brown – Division F report

- Clayton club – 75<sup>th</sup> years!
- Wash U first club ever!
- 70% officers trained
- Club visits scheduled
- 4 club open houses scheduled
- No new club leads
- 4 struggling clubs
- TI recommendation – Officer training (TLI) is redundant, one per term instead of two.
- Elaine Curry responded that some clubs only have 6-month officer terms, ergo two TLI sessions

Annetta Works-Sally, PRM

- How can I help? Offer going out to division directors and club officers.
- What strategies and opportunities to grow your clubs?
- Member spotlight within division, area and club levels – “Let the World Know!”
- Newsletter spotlights – club milestones: 75 year club, branding, member retention, club growth, targeted marketing
- Speech contests – keep the website updated and share
- TLI – placed to other platforms to announce to non-Toastmasters and recruit

Geoff King, CG

- Social media marketing
- Reimbursement for Open Houses
- Toastmasters Awareness month – second half of year
- Funds provided for clubs to attract new members!
- Look for ROI on marketing and funds used to improve clubs

Angie Breinin, PDQ

- 55% clubs trained – we need to do better
- Get club visits scheduled – input due 11/30
- Pathways adoption rate needs to be much higher

- D8 Pathways co-chairs sending out survey soon
- Winter TLI date TBA – call for volunteers

James Childress, DD

- D8 Theme: Share, Connect, Grow
- 48 Distinguished+ clubs last year
- 4 clubs already have achieved 4+ goals for this year
- Mt Vernon may move to Area 6
- District 54 wants to annex 9 counties from District 8. Researching...
- Corporate Clubs downsizing – find ways to retain members
- D8 struggling – Area 14 in danger of being lost
- Division E is struggling
- Increasing social media presence and marketing – who we are and what we can do
- Introduction of new chairs for committees – Pathways, Speechcraft, Corporate Liaison, Fundraising
- Photographer needed
- Directors need for Areas 14 & 17
- Brand Awareness Day – TBA
- Spring Conference 2020 April 17 & 18 St. Louis, MO Holiday Inn, Watson – Humorous and International Contests
- Spring Conference 2021 April 9 & 10 Springfield, IL Crown Plaza Convention Center

Geoff King mentioned that many members looking for DTM opportunities. Club Coaching, Sponsoring and Mentoring available. Must reach Distinguished by end of year

Next meeting will be October 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM Grant's View Library, Room 2

No new business

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 (6 minutes over allotted time)

D8 Officers' meeting reconvened at 1:16 PM

James Childress – Any issues with Club Officer Training?

Adrienne Pluss – some clubs not buying into training and feel it is irrelevant.

James Childress – ADs feel confident in leading the training?

Kevin Desrosiers – hard to round up trainers.

Andrew Welter – group training worked well/collaboration for ALL club officers.

Karen Leingang – helpful for new officers, older clubs are resistant because they feel they know everything

Adrienne Pluss – still less than 50% participation from newer clubs

Kathy Brennan – “training” is a turn off, make it more palatable, networking and information not in manuals

Suresh G – hard to get make-up trainers when scheduling last-minute back-2-back sessions over a weekend

Kat –

Kevin – speech to stress why Distinguished is important

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 PM