



**District 8 Toastmasters DEC Meeting
November 21, 2020 10AM-2PM
Virtual (via Zoom)**

Attendees: RJ Stratton, Tom Coscia, Brianna Snow, Dawn Tucker, Nicole Arms, Neeharika Jaladanki, Victor Mattison, Andrew Welter, Alice Gander, Annetta Works Salley, Curtis Scroggins, Debbie Young, Evelyn, Jackie Kam-Blackard, James Childress, John Barry, Leo Tungaraza, Patrick Hunt, Sarah Van Meter, Seth Jarboe, Stacey Costin, Sue Rankin, Tammy Ablan, Tim Scarbrough, Umanga De Silva, Wayne Schoeneberg, Karen Leingang, Terrell Whitener, April Watts, Art Stanze, Barbara Kryvko, Rebecca Jordan

Meeting Preliminaries:

- RJ called the meeting to order at 10:01AM
- Agenda adopted at 10:02
- James confirmed that we have a quorum with 19/33 DEC members present
- Minutes from previous DEC meeting on 8/15/2020 were approved without correction

July - September 2020 Q1 Finance Report - Brianna Snow

- Negative expenses lingering from last year, balances will go to 0 once they are paid off
- Overall, we are slightly over budget, but we didn't spend any money on travel, lodging, etc. and it should adjust over the year.
- We are still showing a net income for the period.
 - \$12,981 in revenue from dues renewal
 - \$400 spent on educational material
- Mid-year and end of year reports are posted on website
- Question from Alice Gander - seeking support on entering expenses, may need Concur access
 - Tim Scarbrough asked for support on Concur

PR Report - RJ Stratton on Behalf of Alinda Heron

- Newsletter for District 8 should be out in December 1
- Please submit articles to Alinda or RJ as soon as possible

Division A Status Update - Tammy Ablan

- 17 clubs in the Division
- Area Directors are working on reports
- Division meets monthly
- 15/17 clubs submitted annual club reports on time, 2 were submitted from semi-annual clubs

- 1 Distinguished club already - Crossroads
- 47 educational achievements
- 212 members that renewed from October-March, 33 new members as of 11/4
- 2 new club leads
- 3 clubs challenged - charters are alive, area directors are working with club leadership
- JeffCo Comedy Night Open House - well attended, great event!

Division B Status Update - Andrew Welter

- Division is challenged
- Area 16 Director, Susan Berkbigler, had to step away due to health concerns
 - Working on replacement, hoping to submit a name by the end of the week
- 12 clubs in division B that have completed at least 1 goal
 - 2 clubs that have completed 2 goals
- Working with area directors to get reports in before deadline
- Monthly meetings on last Wednesday of the month
 - Changing the next meetings to accommodate for the holidays

Division C Status Update - Nicole Arms

- 22 clubs with at least 8 members
- 100% dues submissions
- All clubs have completed at least 1 goal so far
- Strong team, strong clubs
- Working with more challenged clubs to make sure that things improve by April

Division E Status Update - Curtis Scroggins (Report on behalf of Jennifer)

- Challenges
 - Prison clubs not meeting due to COVID (2 prison clubs)
 - Leaders are doing what they can to support and help the members stay afloat
 - Lost one club in each area, leaving 3 clubs per area
 - Tough to charter new clubs in this area
 - Lost Area 22 director, however, someone has stepped up
- Celebrations
 - Club visits are on track to be completed by 11/30
 - Tech Masters Club has 35 members and have completed 5 goals
 - 3 members have completed a path since 7/1
 - 1 DTM from the Division - Daniel Coker, St. Charles Toastmasters
 - 1 new club - Continental Communicators

Division F Status Update - Karen Leingang

- All area directors except 1 have completed visits
- Working with Area directors to have reports submitted
- 46 Halfway Levels or HPLs submitted
 - 2 Level 5s have been submitted
- All officer lists submitted for year

- Most clubs have submitted dues, except 2
 - A corporate club is not renewing, internally challenged
 - ABECU is not renewing, didn't want to be contacted
- At beginning of year, 6 clubs were not in good standing and did not have members, now only the 2 that are mentioned have no members.
 - 5 clubs are still in poor standing, but have membership. Division will work with them to improve standing.
- Primary Conversation lost Jackie Olden, conducted a tribute to her during an open house.
 - Thank you to district leadership for their support and attendance
- Grand Center celebrated an anniversary
- Recognizing Wayne S. for his Lunch and Learn and hosted a Contest Chair for Art Stanze and Tammy Ablan

Club Growth Report - Victor Mattison

- New Team:
 - John Barry - New Clubs
 - Patti Howard - New Club Resourcing
 - Debbie Young - Club Quality Chair (Mentoring)
 - Evelyn Pearman - Club Retention Chair (Coaching)
- Membership Growth - SE MO, Ferguson/Florissant Area, St. Charles and St. Peters, Hannibal, Effingham/Springfield
 - Strong population and businesses but few clubs
 - Want to focus on local club growth in these areas
- Mentoring/Coaching
 - 60 clubs that are candidates for coaches
 - John nurtures them through the early process
 - Debbie makes sure that the appropriate coaches are connected to clubs at the right time
- Incentives
 - Various incentives for coaching and sponsoring clubs for current members
 - Incentives for submitting dues on time
- Help from Area/Division Directors
 - New Mentors/Coaches
 - Prioritize Clubs that need help
 - Goal to have all clubs growing by 25%
 - Work towards the Club Incentive Program
- Evelyn: Encouraged that we will get triage addressed appropriately to increase number of clubs
- John Barry: Continental Communicators is chartered, 2 more are expected to complete their charter by EOY
- Club Coaching playbook and Club Mentoring Playbook are available on the District 8 website

- Working with coaches and mentors closely so that they feel supported in their work

Program Quality Director Report - Dawn Tucker

- How to hold Hybrid Meetings Lunch and Learn - Alice Gander
 - Most recent, available online
- 12/5 Upcoming Brunch and Learn: Connect your club to the District 8 Meetup Account - Annetta Works Salley
- Contest College
 - If you've been asked to help out, videos are available to review and learn
 - Contests are different this year due to being online, so Contest College is a great resource to become more comfortable with this new environment
- Tom: The Area Division Contest Google Form on District 8 website
 - Submit contact information and Zoom license information
- If there are 4 or fewer clubs in an Area, you can send 2 representatives for the contests
 - Intended to encourage larger contests and healthy competition
- All first choice dates have been accommodated for contests
 - Area 16 and Area 3 were going to work together, however, due to Area 16's Area Director replacement change, this may change
 - Slots are still available on 2/13/2020; most weeknights are also available
 - If you want to use a District 8 Zoom account, then Tom can tell you the details he needs set up Zoom registration
- Plan for Contest: International and Table Topics contests
- TLI plans are underway!
- Zoom master trainings will be available soon so that speech contests can be accommodate with enough support

Humor, Hope, and History - District 8 Spring Conference, April 9-10, 2021 - Barbara Kryvko

- Lindy Maclane, 3rd Place Winner from the 2020 World Championship for Public Speaking will be attending as a speaker
 - Lots of opportunities when virtual! Exploring new ideas for presentations, award ceremony, etc.
- If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dawn or Barbara.
 - Barbara and Dawn want to have a committee finalized by the end of the year and have a brief meeting to kick-off

District Director Update - RJ Stratton

- Leadership Philosophy: District leaders achieve results for their districts by giving priority and attention to the needs of their members and fellow district leaders.
- Toastmasters phishing attempts have been noted - please read the content of all emails you receive to ensure that you don't fall prey to one of these scams!
- Sarah Willie - fundraised for prison clubs by putting together an email campaign
 - Funds help pay for costs for memberships

- For now, they will be placed in a personal type PayPal account, placed under the supervision of a trusted district leader as the District 8 PayPal has not been set up
- Social Events at Area Level to increase comradery
 - Have district trio attend so that area feels encouraged
 - Seeking Rotary partnership that can be mutually beneficial - sharing short videos with them to show what Toastmasters can bring to the table
- Free path available until 12/31! Make sure to sign up and spread the word to clubs.

Motivating People - Terrell Whitener

- Toastmasters allows one to receive motivating comments but also learn how to give motivational support
 - Motivation: To stimulate someone's interest and enthusiasm to do something
- Understanding others, recognizing need to support and motivate
- Motivators - what are the incentives?
 - Receive benefit or feedback
 - Praise
 - Public Recognition
 - Receive increased pay (work)
 - Sense of accomplishment
 - Responsibility
- Motivation is a catalyst to move forward
- Give people room to grow - people need to be motivated to take on the appropriate amount of recognition
- Recognize immediately, and recognize that which is specific to the situation you are in

Dashboard and DCP Requirement Dates - Nicole Arms

- Can drill down on district performance dashboard on TI website to see specific information pertaining to club dues, distinguished club goals, etc.
 - Number breakdown for member performance, due submission, etc.
- Address low hanging fruit goals for Distinguished Club Status
 - Club dues, officer training, etc.
 - All old educational goals have been removed, all are Pathways related
- District 8TM website has Triple Crown details as requirements have changed slightly
 - Hosting speechcraft or youth leadership sessions

Celebrations - RJ Stratton

- 25th Anniversary for club 4431 Mastertoasters
- Grand Center Toastmasters - 38 years
- District 8 is celebrating 80 years of being with Toastmasters
- RJ has pins for clubs and Toastmasters
- Tom Aihlman and Joseph Campbell worked on a challenged club that is now in better standing
- Brooke Meadow - Mentored JeffCo Challengers club to understand Pathways

- Debbie - South County Club celebrated their 45th anniversary
 - Founder is still involved in their club!
- High Noon Celebrated their 60th Anniversary
- O'Fallon club (Annetta) - planning to celebrate their 60th anniversary in April

Open Forum - RJ Stratton

- Karen Leingang: DTM project never appeared on her dashboard.
 - When she reached out to Toastmasters, she learned that each participant must reach out to Toastmasters International and request that the DTM project be added to their dashboard, wanted to bring awareness so that everyone knows here and can take that information back to clubs as needed
- Rebecca: Clubs request hands on training
 - Can we organize for drop-in, 1:1 training during TLI?
 - Dawn: Difficulty lies in multitude of Zoom accounts being used, will have to consider how questions are rerouted to see if this can be supported.
- Tim Scarbrough: Create committees that allows Toastmasters of all levels come together to work on a single goal
 - 11 paths helps us define a different skills
 - Build greater integrity within clubs
 - Good way to learn from each other
 - Can be a powerful mechanism to strengthen the club
- Art Stanze: If there are issues with Pathways, or hostility, EMAIL Toastmasters International!
 - This is how we can develop Pathways to be better for everyone
 - Tell folks that L3-L5 is where you'll do your greatest Pathway learning
 - Speeches are a formality, the learning comes from Projects
 - Combination of

Meeting adjourned at 12:36PM