

Minutes of District 8 Executive Committee Meeting 9/23/2023

8:30 AM • Meeting called to order/Virtual Housekeeping (Zoom platform) by Logistics Manager, Tom Coscia, DTM

Welcome: District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

Review and Recitation of District Mission by all, led by Club Growth Director Patti Howard, DTM

Credentials & Report: Credentials Chair Karen Leingang, DTM, IPDD

- We have 30 members in our DEC; 18 present. We are at 60%.
- We have met quorum.

Review Meeting Agenda: District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

- Revision 1 of 1 – Voting procedures will be presented by District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

The revised meeting agenda is approved as circulated and annotated.

Voting procedures presented by District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

Once an agenda item has been presented the chair will ask for a Motion

Raise your virtual hand to be recognized by the Chair

Once you are recognized – Clearly state your name, club, and position.

Then Make the motion: you are required to state the motion. For an example: I am Joseph Somebody, Joint Forces Club, President – I would like a motion to buy 400 pounds of Vanillas Ice Cream for the Christmas Social on December 20th, 2023.

Please lower your virtual hands as the motion is being made.

After the motion is made, the Chair will ask for a Second for the Motion.

Raise your Virtual hand to be recognized by the chair.

Once you are recognized – Clearly state your name, club, and position.

Then state: **I second the motion.**

Please lower all other virtual hands

The chair will then ask for any further discussion

Discussion/debate on any motion is limited to 6 minutes. If it appears further discussion/debate is necessary after the 6 minutes have elapsed, I may exercise my discretion and consider extending the time. However, in the interest of time and for the benefit of the members, I ask that you limit your remarks to discussion/debate that have not been mentioned and are specifically related to the pending question.

No member may speak more than once on the same proposal or longer than one minute.

I may end the debate/Discussion, stating that no new information is being presented.

Once the Discussion/debate is ended **I will call for the vote**

The Chair will state the Motion then ask:

All those in favor of the motion, please raise your virtual hand, if you cannot raise your virtual hand then raise your hand visually in the center of your screen, leave your hand up until all votes have been taken.

The chair will ask you to lower your hands.

All those opposed to the motion, please raise your virtual hand, if you cannot raise your virtual hand then raise your hand visually in the center of your screen, leave your hand up until all votes have been taken.

The chair will ask you to lower your hands.

The Chair will then read the results for the motion

Carried or Defeated

If there is no second made, the motion will fail for the lack of a second

Approval of District Director Recommendations to fill Leadership positions presented by District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

- A link to the list of appointments was sent to all members of the District Council 30 days prior to this meeting, and an additional three (3) times. The list of appointments were also posted on the District 8 website.
- At the April 15, 2023, District Council meeting. There were no nominees presented for the Division E Director position.
- On July the 22nd, 2023 Elected Division F Director Rahul Joglekar resigned from his position for personal reasons.
- Therefore, the list of appointments will include persons for the Division E and Division F Director positions. The appointees are:
- As of 9/22 10:26 this morning, September 23, 2023, Catherine Jameson which was to be appointed for the area B13 director position resigned. Therefore, there is not an appointment for Area B13, which needs to be approved.
- There are additional volunteers that we are still searching for. We will not be approving those appointments today because we do not have names for them.

Administration Manager • Annetta Works Salley, DTM

Finance Manager • Rebecca Jordan

District Logistics Manager & Webmaster • Tom Coscia, DTM

Parliamentarian • Jan Dean

Division E Director • Keshia Kent, DTM

Division F Director • Colleen Dempsey

Area 2 Director • David Kincade, DTM

Area 4 Director • Sara Dahm

Area 5 Director • Marquetta Wise, DTM

Area 9 Director • Sam Kloese, DTM

Area 3 Director • Janet Martin

Area 18 Director • Henry Green, DTM

Area 1 Director • Nathaniel Randall, DTM

Area 6 Director • Pamela Rodney
Area 10 Director • Linda Leasman
Area 11 Director • Shelley Shellenbarger
Areas 7 Director • Kenneth Freeman, DTM
Area 14 Director • Laura Breksa
Area 20 Director • Michael Smith
Area 8 Director • Timothy Scarbrough
Area 12 Director • Paula Williams
Area 15 Director • Bret Nicolas
Area 17 Director • James Perper
Area 19 Director • Annie Dunn

In addition, there are committee and support positions which have been appointed.

District Leadership Committee Chair • Karen Leingang, DTM
Audit Committee Chair • Elaine Curry, DTM
Alignment Chair • Patty Howard, DTM
Roberts/Drummond Fund • Curtis Scroggins, DTM
Speakers Bureau • RJ Stratton, DTM
Meetup • RJ Stratton, DTM
District Procedures • Sandy Kardis, DTM
District Store • Tim Spezia, DTM
Conference Site Locator • Kat Mokriakow, DTM

On the Marketing Team,
Club Extension Chair & Club New Source Research Chair • Donnelly Williams, DTM
Club Retention Coach Chair • Andrew Welter
New Club Mentor Chair • Jackie Kam Blackard

Motion to approve the District Director recommended appointments was made by David Kincade, Area 2 Director. Seconded by Club Growth Director, Patti Howard.

Hearing no discussion, District Director, Rhonda Green called for a vote on the motion to approve the District Director recommended appointments. Area 14 Director, Laura Breksa placed her vote in the Zoom chat due to her computer issues.

Credentials Chair Karen Leingang, DTM, IPDD

- Votes counted: 14 out of 19; more than 60%.

A majority of members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried.

BUSINESS REQUIRING ADOPTION

District 2023 – 2024 Budget presented for approval by District Director Rhonda

Green, DTM

The 2023-2024 District 8 budget was submitted to Toastmasters International and approved prior to the budget being sent to Toastmasters.

- The Finance Manager, Club Growth Director, the Program Quality Director, and District Director each reviewed and agreed to the submitted budget. When approved by the District Council, the aforementioned four leaders will sign the budget prior to submitting it to Toastmasters International.
- A link to a PDF file of the summary and narratives of the budget, as well as a full copy of the budget spreadsheet, was sent to all members of the District Council 30 days prior to this meeting and an additional three times.
- The PDF file and the budget were also posted on the District 8 website.

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented was made by Patti Howard, Club Growth Director. Seconded by Karen Leingang, Immediate Past District Director.

Hearing no discussion, District Director, Rhonda Green called for a vote on the motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented. Laura, Breksa, Area 14 Director was asked to drop her into the Zoom chat.

Credentials Chair Karen Leingang, DTM, IPDD

- Votes counted: 14 approving the budget; more than 50%.

A majority of members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried.

Alignment Change presented for approval by District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

There were alignment changes made since the April 15th, 2023 District Council meeting. A link to a PDF file outlining the alignment changes was sent to all members of the District Council 30 days prior to this meeting and an additional three times. The alignment change was also posted on the District 8 website.

Information:

- Club number 28675557, Sole Influencers, was chartered after the April 15, 2023 DEC and District Council meetings and temporarily placed in Area 08. The club was moved to Area 05, where it is geographically located.
- The DEC and DC approved the alignment to move Club 2075-Money Talks from Area 16 to Area 13 on April 15, 2023.
- Club 1229, Plus Factor, Area 3, submitted the club dissolution paperwork to Toastmasters on July 17, 2023. This left Area 3 with only (2) active clubs.

- On July 17th, the District Director requested and was granted an exception to move Club 2075, Money Talks to Area 03, so they would have a minimum of three active clubs. This was approved by TI and is currently reflected in the dashboard.

Motion to approve the District Director recommended alignment changes as presented was made by Terri Orban, Division B Director. Seconded by David Kincade, Area 2 Director.

Hearing no discussion, District Director, Rhonda Green called for a vote on the motion to approve the alignment change as presented with a raising of virtual or in-person hands or by placing vote into the Zoom chat.

Credentials Chair Karen Leingang, DTM, IPDD

- Votes counted: 15 approving the alignment change

A majority of members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Interim Year-end (2022/2023) Audit Committee Report presented by Audit Committee Chair, Elaine Curry, DTM

I would like to present an interim report, because some of the reports that we need have not been completely and need to be reconciled. I will present to you that we have begun the process of looking at the findings. The responsibility of the Audit Committee is to ensure that we have profit and loss statements accurately reflecting District income and expenses.

Both District audits are included in the World Headquarters tax information filed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service every year. Incorrect or inappropriate expenses may result in the loss of Toastmaster International's tax-exempt status. We received a reporting document, the supporting documents from the Finance Manager, to review all expense transactions. We coordinate with the Finance Manager to obtain explanations on any discrepancies and to ensure that all transactions were executed in line with policies.

We then come together as a committee and identify any findings that have to be reported and corrected. We are currently completing the final of all of the reconciliations, and we'll send to the District Director for distribution to the DEC the final findings of anything that we come across. Thus far, we are in good shape. There is a couple of questions regarding the timing of submitting reports. Be on the look-out for that possibly being included in our findings.

District Director, Rhonda Green: Thank you very much. Since that is an interim statement on what is going on with the final report and not the actual final report, there is no need for us to vote to accept or approve it as presented.

Available Funds Report presented by Program Relations Manager, Charice Manor

On the behalf of our Finance Manager I will present the Available Funds report. As of August 31st, 2023, the following balances exist:

PayPal account	= \$2,905.02.
Commerce Bank account	= \$3,081.45.
The District Reserve	= \$49,041.40
Total	= \$55,027.87

There is an outstanding balance of expenses submitted in Concur for the month August for

= \$12,955.93,

Adjusted Total = \$42,074.94

Less 2024/2025 retention **= \$7,379.32.**

Available balance = \$34,695.62.

Madam District Director that concludes the BALANCES report.

District Director, Rhonda Green: Thank you very much. This is an Availability of Funds Report. It is for information only. Therefore, it does not require a vote and approval.

Old Business: Tabled Discussion on District Contest Format presented by District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

Motion to take the discussion on the format for district level contest format from the table was made by Patti Howard, Club Growth Director. Seconded by Charice Manor, Program Quality Director.

It has been properly motioned and seconded that we take the discussion on the format for the district level contest from the table. It is now in play.

Can I have a motion from the floor for the format of the District-level contest?

Motion to have an in-person format for the District-level contest was made by Charice Manor, Program Quality Director. Seconded by Tim Scarbrough, Area 8 Director.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Is there any discussion?

Karen Leingang, Immediate Past District Director: So, this is just clarifying. This is only our District Contest. We have it's already decided on the format for the area and division contests, correct?

Rhonda Green, District Director: Yes, both the area and the division contests will be virtual.

Karen Leingang, Immediate Past District Director: Okay. I just wanted to make sure that was clear before we proceeded.

Rhonda Green, District Director: No problem.

Terri Orban, Division B Director: I apologize. I was not at the last meeting, so I did not hear this discussion. I would like to clarify why we're not doing hybrid and why we are just doing in-person when a majority of my club members are virtual people and don't even live in the city.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Charice, would you like to address that, or would you like for me to address it?

Charice Manor, Program Quality Director: I will tell you that I originally did volley for hybrid, but after looking at all of the hybrid options, it financially does not seem feasible without some serious fundraising to have a hybrid type contest because of the infrastructure and the equipment needed to do the contest. If we don't pay for someone to come in and actually host all of the video recording for us, we'd have to piecemeal it all, which means we'd have to have a dedicated team just for this specific piece.

So, it just seemed more advantageous to have it in person so that the winners of the district contest or the divisions know that going forward they would have to actually be in-person.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Is there any further discussion?

Kenny Freeman, Area 7 Director: May I call for the question?

Rhonda Green, District Director: No. We are in the process of asking was there any additional, discussion. So, therefore calling for the question, calling for the vote at this time is inappropriate.

Laura Breksa, Area 14 Director: The answer to Terry's question confused me. You're saying that the further contests are all virtual, correct?

Rhonda Green, District Director: No. The Area Director contests and the Division Director contests are all virtual.

Laura Breksa, Area 14 Director: Yes.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Charice, put a motion on the floor for the District-level contests to be in-person at the in-person conference.

Laura Breksa, Area 14 Director: Yes. Is that the first of the contests or the last of the contests?

Rhonda Green, District Director: It is the last of the contests at the district level.

Laura Breksa, Area 14 Director: Okay. So, the winners of the other two contests will then go and be in-person.

Rhonda Green, District Director: The Area level contest winners go up to the Division level Contest. The Division level winners go up to the District level Contest. But it's important that people know when they are competing that the District level contest is going to be in person. If they win the Division contest and they cannot compete at the District Contest, then the second-place person would then be able to move up to the District level contest and so on.

Laura Breksa, Area 14 Director: Realize before you vote that you are discriminating against those who are in clubs such as Continental Communicators because they cannot attend meetings in person. Well, just know when you vote for that, that's what's happening.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Discrimination is saying that a person cannot compete at the District level. Well, remember that the members of the Alpha Club and the Talu Club cannot compete in a virtual or in an in-person contest because of the club circumstances. The vote is not saying that anyone cannot complete. The vote is determining the format of the contest. Then the Division winners make a decision on if they want to move forward and compete in person.

Laura Breksa, Area 14 Director: Yeah. Just wanted to put that in the discussion. So that's what it sounds like is happening. So, I'm just mentioning that. So, when we vote, that is what's happening. I mean, I know not everybody can know everybody's winning in this situation. You said discussion. That's all I wanted to make sure that I understood that was what was happening. I'm not arguing.

Tim Scarbrough, Area 8 Director: This is something I think is happening across Toastmasters where we are transitioning from this or trying to transition back to the old way of doing things, which is, is good in a way for many of us. But then there's also this hybrid situation, which I really think bears, uh bears some importance on how we do things in the future. My original club, Southern Illinois Toastmasters lost members

over time. Due to the people not being able to attend. When Zoom came along we developed this hybrid format, suddenly we were able to keep our members. So, I honestly think that it would behoove District 8 to set up everything in hybrid status and hope and do the best we can and fund it, because I really believe that's how we survive in the future. Just my, just my two cents worth.

Kenny Freeman, Area 7 Director: May I inquire as to what contests will be held at that time?

Rhonda Green, District Director: The International speech contest and the Table Topics contest are the speeches for this year. Any further discussion?

Hearing no further discussion. All of those in favor of the motion to have the District-level contest in-person, please raise your virtual hand or put in the chat if you cannot raise your virtual hand or cannot show your hand.

Credentials Chair Karen Leingang, DTM, IPDD

- Votes counted: 10 of 19 in favor of the motion.

A majority of voting members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried.

Rhonda Green, District Director: The format of the district level contests will be in person.

Next Meeting/Announcements presented by District Director Rhonda Green, DTM

Rhonda Green, District Director: The 2024-2025 District nominations will open on November the first, 2024 District Leadership Chair will be Distinguished Toastmaster Karen Leingang. By November the first, 2023, all required forms will be located on the District 8 website. In addition to taking nominations for elected positions: District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and the five Division Director positions, this year, the DLC will also be collecting nomination forms for all people interested in district-appointed roles.

The list of District-appointed roles includes: area directors, chairs, etc. They will be collecting the nomination forms. The DLC Committee will not be vetting the people who are interested in appointed positions. When the new District Director for the next year is elected, the Nomination Chair can pass all of those nominations over and then the new District Director can start interviewing, start speaking to, and trying to get all of those nominated positions filled.

The next District Council meeting is scheduled for April the 27th, 2024. Next month, all District members will receive an invite to attend the conference. Charice, would you like to make an announcement about the Annual Spring Conference?

Charice Manor, Program Quality Director: There was a decision between two venues to hold the conference that will provide us the conference space, the best conference space for us. The choice was between the Holiday Inn on Route 66 Watson Road and the Hollywood Casino in Maryland Heights. I deliberated a lot on both of these properties to make sure that the chosen venue would fit our needs.

Should we have decided to do hybrid, would we be able to pull it off in both spaces, virtual, whatever we were doing, all of our breakouts, our meetings, extra business meetings, just all the things. The Conference is going to be at Hollywood Casino in Maryland Heights.

Just an additional note. I did try to sniff around to see if I smelled smoke in there and I only smelled smoke in one spot. That was when I walked past a sports bar to go up the escalator to the conference center. The rest of the building did not smell like smoke.

The conference is going to be April 26th and 27th at the Hollywood Casino, Maryland Heights, Missouri.

Rhonda Green, District Director: April 28th is Sunday morning. I don't believe that we're going to have a conference session on Sunday morning. That does not mean that the newly elected District Director, cannot have a meeting that morning with her new Leadership Team. We don't have the full conference schedule yet, but we will get it together. For the first time ever in District eight history, we will be having a virtual fundraiser for members to raise money for their conference registration to reduce the members' out-of-pocket costs.

Any extra money generated will be used to add more incentives for club success, speech crafts and more.

The Winter in-person Toastmasters Leadership Institute is scheduled for December 9th, 2023. Scheduled to make sure that our clubs have the chance to attain. All right, everybody show your pictures and let's do it. **The Fast Five to Distinguished Incentive!**

Are there any other announcements?

Charice Manor, Program Quality Director: I just have an announcement or a question for the Area and Division Directors. You got an email from me two days ago asking for your Area contest primary and alternate date. I also updated the Google spreadsheet to include the times so that whenever I set up or Tom and I, set up the zoom links, we can have them not overlapping.

If you can't open the Google doc, please let me know. I saw a comment from someone who said I couldn't open it in error, but I don't know who that came from. Thank you.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Patty, you just unmuted.

Patti Howard, Club Growth Director: We have just one Area Director so far that is going to get all of their Area Director Visit reports in by the end of September for that Area Director First Round of Reports Incentive.

We have an incentive for those who pay their dues by September 30th, for the October through March renewals.

Remind your folks to get those renewal dues in. Also, feel free to look at the calendar. There are several educational opportunities, trainings that are going to be held virtually. So please look at that District calendar for those dates.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Are there any other announcements? Any questions? Acknowledged Kenny Freeman.

Kenny Freeman, Area 7 Director: I would like to ask Charice, PQD, to repeat what she said, because I'm not sure I heard everything.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Repeat what she said about the Area Director and Division Director contest?

Kenny Freeman, Area 7 Director: Right.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Acknowledged Charice Manor.

Charice Manor, Program Quality Director: Yes, I heard the question. I sent an email out to all the Division Directors and Area Directors with some information in it for speech contests like the link and all that. But I also had a Google spreadsheet link in there for you all to fill in your date, preferred date, and your alternate date of contest. I had updated that to include the time that you would like for your primary and alternate dates. Remembering that Area contests are going to be held in February and Division contests will be held in March.

Rhonda Green, District Director: Are there any other questions?

Hearing none.

I would like to thank you all very much for getting up the crack of dawn. That's how I see it. Know that not only do I appreciate your support of all of our members and all of our clubs. Everybody in the District appreciates the hard work that you are doing, that you are volunteering, taking out of your personal lives to serve as a District Leaders in this organization. Remember, always that Toastmasters is where leaders are Made.

Thank you for attending today's District Executive Committee meeting this morning. The District Council meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and I will see you there. Thank you.