

District 7 Executive Committee Meeting

July 25, 2021

Minutes

Meeting brought to order at 7:00pm by Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director

Eldred welcomed the committee for the year and went over ground rules (renaming, muting, and rules of order).

Mission statements read by Jim Robison, DTM, Club Growth Director

Adoption of Agenda

Jim Robison, DTM, Club Growth Director, moved to adopt the agenda. It was seconded by Jim Wolak, Area 32 Director.

The motion passed unanimously.

Leader Installation Ceremony

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director, installed all Area Directors for the 2021-2022 year. All present Area Directors responded in the affirmative.

Eldred Brown installed all Division Directors for the 2021-2022 year. All present Division Directors responded in the affirmative.

Eldred Brown installed the rest of the District Officers including the incoming Finance Manager, Public Relations Manager, and Administration Manager. All present responded in the affirmative.

Trio Reports/District News

Club Growth Director Jim Robison, DTM

Jim highlighted the team that's been helping with club growth this year: Cheri Perry, David Johnson, Tamsen Corbin, Bob Hall, and Charissa Yang, Public Relations Manager.

We started on July 1 with new clubs in progress. There are 47 clubs in either the lead system or in prospective clubs. Prospective means that they have already ordered a new club kit, but they have not yet set up a charter. There have been two more leads since then, one of which is a corporate club at Assured Partners. There is a demo meeting for this club scheduled in August.

First new club coach was appointed on July 1st (Crystal Clark, Division B Director).

New Debate Club is looking for members. Contact is David Freedman, ideaguy3000@gmail.com

Club Growth Incentives (these all pending budget finalization): Club Website Contest, to encourage clubs to build the best website, dues payments by the 15th, dues paid memberships above the clubs base membership (net growth), Open Houses/Workshops (plan an open house/workshop, put it on the District calendar, and the District will Social Media Boost the event), New Member Surveys, Guest Surveys, and Club Leads.

Finally, Club Growth needs help. They want each Division to provide a PR Coordinator. Division Directors should follow-up with Jim Robison or Charissa Yang on this.

Program Quality Director Lorri Andersen, DTM

Officer Makeup Training is on the District 7 event calendar and Facebook. Each office has three or four makeup trainings. Lorri would like to extend special thanks to the Division Directors for setting these up. Training records will need to be updated Toastmasters International after the District is online with them again for the new year.

There are a lot of educational events going on with Learning Labs and Tech Tuesday. For Learning Labs, there is a Moments of Truth one on August 4th. Nuts and Bolts of New Clubs is on Sep. 1st. All of these are on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. For Tech Tuesday, they have planned hybrid training, YouTube videos, and Canva.

There is also a lot of Pathways Training and support, such as Pathways and FreeToastHost for VPE and Basecamp Manager. Monthly Pathways seminars will begin in September. We will be asking for additional training ideas with a form; this will be emailed to Division Directors who will need to get them to Area Directors and Clubs.

There will be incentives throughout the year (this list is not exhaustive): Moments of Truth, Division and Area Success Plans, Club Success Plans, Mentoring, and Distinguished Clubs.

Dates have been set for the Contests this year:

Club: Dec. 13th-Feb. 12th

Area: Feb. 13th-Mar. 26th

Division: Mar. 27th-May 1st

District: May

TLI Plans are in progress, with one sometime in Nov. or Dec. Conference planning will be starting soon.

As a reminder: if we do our best with our success plans, we will fit in well with the Toastmasters International Envisioned Future.

District Director Eldred Brown, DTM

Division Directors: Division C Director-Elect Paul Fanning resigned. Janet Cerasin, DTM was appointed to replace Paul. This will be subject to the final approval of the District Council in September.

For Area Directors, 26 of 35 positions are now filled. There are vacancies mainly in Division B and H, as well as in Area 45 (in Division C). Hopefully, vacancies will be filled by Sep. 1st.

The International Annual Business Meeting is on August 26th. Club Presidents should be assigning proxies as soon as possible. Proxies can be assigned to yourself, other members, or District officers. The District Director has one at-large vote.

Two Division and Area Director trainings were offered on 7/10 and 7/17. We almost hit the training goal of 85%. Makeup training is now being scheduled for those who missed either day. There are two Area Directors attending makeup training tomorrow.

Speech Contests – Will we conduct our speech contests online again or in person? (vote required)

The DEC must make a decision regarding the format of our 2021-2022 speech contests and report this to World Headquarters no later than 7/31/2021. This is mandated by Toastmasters International.

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director reviewed the voting process.

First, the trio presented their recommendation: run all speech contests online. A vote for the recommendation results in the District running all Area, Division, and District contests online this year. A vote against the recommendation means the District will plan for those events to be held in person, but the District would still have the option to switch to an online format at a later date. Clubs will still have discretion over their contests.

Cyrstal Clark, Division B Director motioned in favor of the recommendation.

DeeDee Fitch, Area 64 Director seconded the motion.

The discussion rules involved 15 minutes total discussion, alternating between For and Against, starting with For. Two minutes are allowed for each speaker; if a speaker exceeds two minutes, they would be muted.

Crystal Clark, Division B Director: Argument in favor. The biggest reason is that in Division B, a recent winner was in England. We would lose out on international members. Excluding them would not be in the District's best interest.

Jim Wolak, Area 32 Director: Argument in opposition. While Jim agrees in principle with Crystal, the true performance of a Toastmaster is further enhanced in person. Also, clubs and areas were developed for people who lived nearby.

Jim Robison, DTM, Club Growth Director: Argument in favor. Many clubs are actually International clubs. Allowing everyone to participate is important. We are in a situation of an uptick in the Delta variant of COVID-19. If we start the process of in-person contests, but then have to switch, we have to do double the work. It's easier if we stick with online without having to switch venues at all.

Joe Harper, Area 41 Director: Argument in opposition. There's a social aspect of a contest that happens in-person. We miss that on Zoom. If we vote for in-person, we still can switch back to online.

Suzanne Loeb, DTM, Division G Director: Argument in favor. She promised her area directors that we would have a Zoom contest. There are International participants. People have been joining since Zoom is more accessible, this builds momentum.

Lastly a middle-ground, let's plan for Zoom contests, but prepare contestants for in-person just in case.

Brent Smith, Area 43 Director: Argument in opposition. When are we going to return to normal? We have a choice this year, in the future we may not have a choice. Plan for an in-person contest, as in the future we will need to go back to in-person contests. Likely we will be back to online, or hybrid approach with some contests online.

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director clarified we cannot do a hybrid approach.

Carol Schultz, Area 84 Director: Argument in favor. At the club level, there are issues finding a meeting place, so they are unable to do in-person contests anyway. To start down one road and switch involves double-planning.

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director clarified that clubs will still have a choice.

Ayu Anantya, Area 22 Director: Argument in opposition. She will accept the decision the District makes. It is okay even if she cannot compete; being in Toastmasters is for learning, not just contests. This is a Toastmaster meeting in the US, so make the US participants happy.

Daphne Parker, Area 63 Director: Argument in favor. Along with the other points, one is important. Zoom is here to stay. Let us teach people how to make Zoom their stage since we will need that skill in the future. A lot of us are new Area Directors, being asked to double-plan is a lot to ask. This could diminish our enthusiasm.

Greg Hawkins, Area 81 Director: Argument in opposition. The requirement for equipment and technology in everyone's houses is a bit exclusive. However, he will be fine with any decision.

The vote was collected via Zoom poll. There were two minutes allotted for the vote.

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director reported that we have 29 members of our committee at this event and have reached quorum (minimum requirement is 21). Technically, the attendance is at 30 as Eldred counts towards quorum, but does not vote.

Results. To pass, a simple majority is required. 23 were in favor, 5 opposed. We will run all Area, Division, and District speech contests online this year.

For	Against	No Vote
23	5	1
79.3%	17.2%	3.4%

New Business

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director referred to the Parliamentarian for process of new business. A motion from the floor and a second is required. There was no new business or motion.

Announcements

The Debate Club is looking for members.

Jim Robison, DTM, Club Growth Director wanted all the Area Directors to be aware that the District has a team of Zoom masters that can help. They also have people that can help clubs with hybrid meetings. If you are trying to publicize a special event, Charissa Yang, Public Relations Manager can help.

Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director announced we have a hybrid clubs consultant. Patrick Locke is leading the committee for this. Please contact Patrick Locke if interested.

PJ Kleffner, DTM, Immediate Past District Director mentioned that if you haven't already submitted a nomination for the Of the Year awards, please do so before Aug. 5th. Contests: several people mentioned they want the social aspect of contests, and PJ says clubs can meet in person during the contest to cheer on their contestant.

Patrick Locke and Lorri Andersen, DTM, Program Quality Director were discussing additions to Tech Tuesday on the District Calendar to advertise.

Zoommaster Ellen Ino asks all the Area directors to read Voices! as she put specific District needs in there.

Dave Bones, DTM, Division D Director had a question about Annual Business Meeting. Per club, is it two votes no matter what you do? Eldred clarified that the proxy would get two votes. If the President alone goes to the Annual Business Meeting, they can cast both votes. Jim Robison, DTM, Club Growth Director clarified that there used to be a situation where you could split the votes, but that is no longer the case.

Dave Shehorn wanted to mention Fall speech contests. We used to have them, but clubs can still hold them. This would remain at the club level only.

Lorri Andersen, DTM, Program Quality Director mentioned that Tall Tales Contests are a lot of fun. It's an excellent idea.

Zoommaster Ellen Ino also mentioned that Fall contests may be a good way to work out the Zoom bugs for the clubs.

Adjournment

Next DEC Meeting has not yet been scheduled. But Eldred Brown, DTM, District Director wants us to meet on the same day every month. Doodle poll will be sent out.

Eldred clarified that District Central access is still delayed due to his error (which is now corrected). All should have access by this week.

DeeDee Fitch, Area 64 Director motioned to adjourn.

Crystal Clark, Division B Director seconded.

No Discussion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned just prior to 8:00pm.

Minutes compiled and submitted by
Graham Smith
Administration Manager
August 6, 2021