



District Council Meeting Minutes of District 56

Friday, April 30, 2021

The meeting convened on April 30, 2021, at 6:30 pm with 162 members present. District Director, Rose W. Bradford, DTM provided a warm welcome!

Call to Order

The Chair, Rose W. Bradford, DTM 2020 – 2021 District 56 Director – opened the meeting The Administration Manager Robert B. Bailey, DTM, was taking meeting minutes. The Chair indicated that we would follow Robert's Rules of Order. The Chair then explained which members comprised the District Council. The attendees were asked if there were any present who are not members of the District Council and if so to identify themselves using the 'Raised Hand' feature. The Chair asked that all questions be put in the 'chat' feature and asked people to Include their name and their position in the chat. Discussion will be limited to 4 minutes. The Chair may extend the time if warranted.

Pledge

The pledge of allegiance was led by Jennifer Nelson, DTM, Logistics Manager,

Inspirational Message

Sheryle H Warren, DTM, IPDDD, provided the inspirational message which began with the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic. Sheryle, then focused on the ROTOKO theme. She shared how this theme impacts us at all levels as Toastmasters. Sheryle encouraged everyone to find the silver lining in all circumstances and to grow through the adversity we face. She left us with a song from Diana Ross – "What the World needs now is Love".

Remembrance of lost members

PID, RA, DTM Pamela McCown, lead us in memoriam for 3 Toastmasters who have passed during this last year. The three Toastmasters were: Paul W. Ralph, Joe Dean Passmore and Charles 'Chuck' Knight. Pamela shared a short biography for each of the members including their various roles in Toastmasters.

Certification of Quorum

Rose also asked for a moment of silence for Steve Jones, DTM who could not be present due to a death in his family. The Chair asked for the Certification of Quorum Report from the Credentials Chair, Harold Eaton, DTM. Harold acknowledged that Amish Patel, DTM will be assisting with the Credentials process. Harold shared that voting will be conducted by polls in the Google platform and he explained the voting process. To achieve quorum, one-third of active club officers need to be present. Per results of the poll, there are a total of 170 possible leadership votes. A simple majority would be 86. A two-thirds majority would be 113. A total of 125 club officers were present. A total of 31 DEC members were present. The Chair stated that we do have a quorum based on the number of votes and the revised Toastmaster International guidelines regarding quorum. Without objection, the credentials report was adopted.

Mission of Toastmasters International, Core Values & District Mission

Rose W. Bradford, DTM, District Director recited all of these.

District Director Opening Comments

Rose W. Bradford, DTM, District Director emphasized the importance of how we treat others. She thanked the leaders of District 56 for doing such a great job in their various roles. She listed each role from Area Director to Program Quality Director and commented on the work done. She shared her appreciation for helping her fulfill her vision of ROTOKO and of upholding the core values of Toastmasters. Rose then shared an overview to the Business Meeting and the items that would be covered. Rose reminded everyone of 'Robert's Rules of Order' and the process.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked for adoption of the agenda as it was posted on the website and shared by email. Carol Caraway, PDDD, DTM asked why the TRIO members did not have their designation listed in front of their names on the agenda. The Chair responded that it was an oversight. Rose asked Robert B. Bailey, DTM Administration Manager to update the agenda. No other questions or suggestions were made. The agenda was adopted as corrected and will be reposted to the website. After further review, both Administration Manager and The Chair determined that the agenda is correct as submitted. The leadership titles are boldly displayed at the left of the agenda.

District Council Meeting Officials

The Chair introduced members that would help with the meeting today in various roles. The Chair affirmed each person holding a position of importance who was helping with the meeting and shared their official role and their club involvement. There were 10 meeting officials named and presented.

Approval of the Minutes - Fall District Council Meeting 9/19/2020

The Chair called upon Robert B. Bailey, Administration Manager, DTM to review the minutes from the last District Council meeting. The Chair stated that upon hearing no objection, we will dispense with reading of the minutes. There were no objections and the minutes were not read. The Chair then asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. None were raised and The Chair stated that without objection, the minutes were approved as presented.

District Realignment Report

The Chair called for the adoption of the realignment committee report. The report was approved by the DEC previously. Rose called upon the Chair of the Realignment Committee, Balaji Madana, DL2. Balaji stated that since the DEC meeting, changes have occurred within the District and therefore an updated (Substituted) realignment report will be presented to the District Council. First, Balaji presented the realignment committee members and the extended team. Next, Balaji reviewed the guidelines for the realignment. The next portion demonstrated the change from the proposed report to the updated report. Highlights were given for club movements and area changes. Six areas were removed. The Area count dropped from 41 to 35. Seven new clubs were added to District 56. Area and club changes by each Division were shown on subsequent slides and maps were included to demonstrate the geographic boundaries of each Division. Balaji made the motion for adoption of the substitute realignment proposal. Some discussion occurred regarding the presentation by the realignment committee chair. Sally Boyd, DTM seconded the motion to adopt the substitute realignment proposal. The Chair called for a vote to adopt the substituted realignment report as presented. The poll was launched and the results were 122 votes affirmed with 3 votes opposed. The substituted realignment report was adopted as presented.

Audit Committee Report

David Rebeles, PDDG, DTM presented the mid-year Audit Committee Report. He stated the responsibility of the Audit Committee and stated that both the mid-year and 2020 end of year audits are filed with Toastmasters International's tax information that is provided to the IRS. David listed the audit team members. David stated that the team reviewed the organization, conducted a policy review, and reviewed income and expenses. David stated that audit standards were followed to provide reasonable assurance that there are no material misstatements. In the opinion of the audit committee the statements present fairly in material respects the financial position of District 56. No questions were asked.

Budget and Profit / Loss Statements 07/01/2020 through 03/31/2021

Rae Ann George, Finance Manager, DTM stated that our cash position is healthy showing available funds as of 3/31/2021. Total available funds were \$110,780.30. We have immediate access to \$30,000 in our local bank account. She then presented the revenues and expenses for the above stated period. She presented the actual vs. budget amounts showing the variances for each. Membership revenue is just under budget and she encouraged members to renew their memberships to help meet the budget amounts. Unbudgeted fundraising revenue was an unexpected bonus as was District Store revenue. Next, Rae Ann reviewed each expense line item and provided details for each category. Categories that were under-budget were Club Growth, Marketing, Speech Contest and Public Relation expenses. Total expenses are approximately \$17,694 under budget at this time. Net Income at 3/31/2021 is \$23,790. No questions were asked.

Senior Reports

Public Relations Manager Report

Terrie Green, Public Relations Manager, DTM gave the report by starting with the mission of the Public Relations team. Terrie named each person on the team and their role. Terrie reflected on the success of the new District Website. She thanked everyone on the team for their help. She shared innovations made using Google to reduce the need for paperwork. She discussed the implementation of Constant Contact to assist with email management and to assist with updating Social Media sites. Terrie showed a diagram of all of the new Social Media options that we are using this year and how they link together. Rose shared her gratitude to the Public Relations team and to Jo Idoux for their work on the new website.

District Growth/Loss Status Report

Chandra Munagavalasa, Club Growth Director, DTM presented a series of PowerPoint slides starting with the club status in District 56. We have 157 clubs in good standing and 33 with either low or no renewals. Our club base is 190 and we have added 7 new clubs. The Club Growth Director presented the Club Visit Report by Division and Areas for Round 1 and Round 2. All Divisions achieved over 100% for round 1. For round 2, Division P has achieved 109%. A list of Area Directors who have completed 100% of their reports was presented. Pinar Sikes was the first to complete the Area Director reports. A list of the 7 new clubs that have been added this year was presented. A 'plan of action' for clubs with a membership shortfall was provided. A total of 19 clubs have the potential of regaining the 'good standing' status.

District 56 Education Status Report

Jo Idoux, Program Quality Director, DTM presented Educational Achievements for the District from July 2020 to March 2021. A total of 1,226 awards have been earned. 124 Triple Crown awards were also achieved. Members are working in Pathways at all levels. Educational awards have increased since Pathways. Based on the charts presented, officers and existing members have adopted Pathways, while new members have not been fully engaged yet. Jo challenged the Area Directors to conduct a session to engage the new members in Pathways. Round one training resulted in 927 officers trained. In Round 2 we had 795 officers trained. Jo presented the 'OLE' program results by month from July 2020 to April 2021. The number of electives, number of participants and both trainer and participant hours were provided. As of April 27, 2021, we have 19 clubs that have achieved President's Distinguished status. We have 9 clubs that have achieved Select Distinguished status and 5 that have achieved Distinguished status. Jo challenged everyone to encourage our clubs to finish strong. Area P3 assigned to Area Director Elizabeth Ruiz was the first area to become Distinguished. Jo praised Fatimar Jones for stepping up to serve 2 Areas this year.

District 56 Insights and Observations

The Chair introduced Kathryn R. Kest, IPDD, DTM who asked us to walk with her through a review of the past year. She shared the impact of COVID 19 and the need for Toastmasters to 'go virtual'. Kathy shared how technology teams developed to help everyone work with Zoom and the online environment. She shared that District 56 is concerned for its members. She believes this was one of the most challenging years that she has ever seen. She praised several members and the current Trio for having a successful year. She praised the effort by so many to ensure District 56 finishes 'Houston strong'.

District Leadership Committee Report

The Chair asked Kathryn R. Kest, IPDD, DTM to remain in order to present the DLC report. Kathryn introduced the DLC Committee members who represented each of the 7 Divisions in District 56. The Committee nominated candidates for each of the Trio positions and all 7 of the Division Directors roles.

The following District Leadership candidates were nominated for the Trio:

District Director	Jo Idoux, DTM
Program Quality Director	Chandra Munagavalasa, DTM
Club Growth Director	Sharla Ozen, DTM

The following District Leadership candidates were nominated for the Division Director positions:

Division L	Avi Roy Chowdhury, PM5, DL5
Division M	Yvette Hayes, DTM
Division N	Jose Betancourt, DTM
Division O	Ramona J. Smith, PM3
Division P	Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM
Division Q	Roop Roy, DTM
Division R	Cassie Brandley, DL5, SR5

Election of Officers

For each of the 10 positions, the Chair stated that one name has been placed in nomination. No objections were given to the nominations, therefore, the Chair dispensed with secret ballots and instructed the Administration Manager to cast single verbal ballots for each candidate in their uncontested positions. This process was followed for each of the 10 positions, one at a time. The Chair then presented the 2021 – 2022 District Leadership Team.

International Director Candidates

The Chair announced that 2 International Director Candidates are running for the Region 5 position. The Chair introduced the first candidate, Farzana Chohan, DTM and asked her to give address the members. Rose then introduced the second candidate, Monica Rose, DTM and asked her to give her presentation. Both candidates introduced themselves and expounded on why they are seeking the International Director position.

Installation of Officers 2021 – 2022

The Chair called Lark Doley, PIP, DTM to install the newly elected officers of District 56. Lark recited the mission and core values of Toastmasters International. She thanked the current District Leadership team for their service during this difficult year. She then announced the 7 newly elected Division Directors by name and position. She reminded the Division Directors of their overall goals and responsibilities. Lark then called upon the Division Directors to share their vision for their role in one sentence. After this was completed, she inducted the newly elected Trio by having them show their gavel. She then stated the job description of each role and asked the Trio to state their vision in this order: Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, District Director. Each of the Trio members were asked to affirm their intentions for fulfilling their responsibilities. This was symbolized by the raising and passing of the gavel. Lark asked all members present to affirm their support of the newly elected officers which they did.

Old Business / New Business

The next items on the agenda were Old and New Business. The Chair determined that neither Old or New Business existed.

Announcements

The Chair gave a variety of announcements including, upcoming conference sessions, post conference items and other items of District importance. Outstanding club officer nominations and end of year awards will be given after the Toastmaster year ends.

District Director Comments

The Chair reminded us that our Toastmaster year is winding down, with only 2 months remaining. She shared that as her term ends a new term for the new leaders will begin. She reflected upon the unexpected challenges and changes that occurred during this year due to COVID 19. Rose thanked the leadership teams: Senior 7, Division Directors and Area Directors. She asked for a warm round of applause for the leadership teams for both this year and next year. Lastly she moved to close the Business Meeting, pausing to ask for objections. No objection was made and the meeting was adjourned.

Chair adjourned meeting at 9:05 pm

Submitted by Robert B. Bailey, DTM – Administration Manager

Dated: April 30, 2021.

Distribution:

District Director, Rose W. Bradford, DTM
Program Quality Director, Jo Idoux, DTM
Club Growth Director, Chandra Munagavalasa, DTM
Public Relations Manager, Terrie Green, DTM
Administration Manager, Robert B. Bailey, DTM
Finance Manager, Rae Ann George, DTM
Immediate Past District Director, Kathryn R. Kest, DTM
Parliamentarian, John Robert Behrman, DTM
Credentials Chairs, Harold Eaton, DTM
David Rebeles, PDDG, DTM
Balaji Madana, DL2
Division and Area Directors