

**SPRING 2025 ~ DISTRICT 21 COUNCIL MEETING
& Annual Business Meeting
District 21 Spring Council Meeting**



Minutes for May 19, 2025

Chair: District 21 Director, Virginia Keast, DTM

Minutes recorded by: Elaine Apel

General Notes:

- 77 people registered.
 - 66 registered as District Officers.
 - 71 attendees.
 - No votes will take place this evening.
1. Call to Order by Chair, D21 District Director, Virginia Keast, at 7:05 pm. This meeting marks our final District Council Meeting. July 1, 2025 will be the beginning of an exciting new future, whereby D21 will join forces with D96, one of the biggest districts in our global organization. This will be an exciting summer, as we merge together.
 2. Zoom Meeting Protocol and Disclaimer Notice were presented by Virginia Keast.
 3. Inspirational message was presented by Carlos Millones.
 4. District 21 Mission was presented by Karen Hall, Club Growth Director.
 5. Remembrances, including a Moment of Silence, was led by Virginia Keast.
 6. Virginia Keast welcomed our Dignitary and Parliamentarian, past international board member and DTM, Rick Sydor.
 7. District 21 Credentials Report was presented by Darryl Farquhar.
 - i. Total Clubs in Good Standing: 85
 - ii. Total Possible Votes (2 votes per club: 1 for President, 1 for VPE): 170
 - iii. Quorum (1/3 of total possible votes): 57
 - iv. Total Registered Club Votes: 76
 - v. Total Registered District Executive Votes: 13
 - vi. Total Registered Votes: 89
 - vii. 71 people in attendance
 - a. The Credentials Report was approved by Virginia Keast then moved by Darryl Farquhar then adopted as read. No need for second or objection. We have achieved a Quorum.
 8. There were no District Appointed Officer positions requiring approval since the September District Council Meeting 2024 Area 72 Director Douglas Lee
 9. Meeting Standing Rules were presented by Virginia Keast, read by all attendees, without objections.

10. Shawn O'Hara was appointed as Zoom Master by Virginia Keast without objections.
11. Colt Cash was appointed as Timer by Virginia Keast without objections.
12. Meeting Agenda, Version 3, dated Monday, May 19, 2025, was adopted as presented by Virginia Keast without objections.
13. The Fall Council Minutes, from September 22, 2024, from our D21 Council Meeting were circulated in accordance with Toastmasters International protocol. With one minor objection, as expressed by Devon Downie, "change year from 2025 to 2024 throughout", the Minutes were adopted by Virginia Keast.
14. A Mid-Year D21 Audit Report was presented by Raymond Ho after it was reviewed and audited by the team, then submitted to Toastmasters International on February 15, 2025 for review and approval. It includes Revenues and Expenses, and results that are favourable, including revenues that are greater than budget. There is a small net income. Any negative variances are ahead of budget. Raymond Ho moved to adopt the Mid-Year 2024/2025 D21 Audit Report presented. No objections. Next review will take place in September 2025 during the Fall District Council Meeting.
15. As the District Finance Manager was absent, the Q3 Profit & Loss Statement to March 31, 2025, was presented by Virginia Keast, including an overview of District Revenue and Expenses. Actuals are in red, Budget numbers are in blue and Variances are highlighted in yellow. We are seeing net of any revenue and expenses within our conference category. There is no doubt that Toastmasters exists because of membership revenue. There were no questions and no objections. Rick suggested we file for audit.
16. Division Leader Reports (refer to Presentation for details)
 - a. Division A – Steven Leung, DTM
 - b. Division C - Val Gunn
 - c. Division E – Charnél Izaks, DTM
 - d. Division F – Susan Gage
 - e. Division J – Clinton Lee, report delivered by Virginia Keast
 - f. Note in Zoom Chat from Sheila Proctor: Vernon 1929 has Presidents Select and 17 new members.
17. District Officers Reports (see notes below and refer to Presentation video for details)
 - a. Parliamentary Report – Rick Sydor, DTM

Serving as Parliamentary over the past 5 years. To District Officers, please ensure clubs are registered for the Merger Meeting, on Tuesday, May 27. At least 1 election to vote on and a realignment to approve. 8 proposals to vote on this year in Philadelphia. On Toastmasters International, search "2025 proposals". Read and see what the Board of Directors is asking you to approve. Make sure newly elected register their Club so that Club can vote according to club wishes on these proposals.

b. Administration Manager – vacant; presented by Virginia Keast

We have been very busy, going over all the archives and records. Negotiating with new partner, District 96. A Transition team is reviewing requirements and working to a timeline to be ready for the July 1 merger.

c. Finance Manager – Sophie Zhang – absent; report presented by Virginia Keast

A reserve is very important since an amount is allocated toward the greater organization. We save 25% of membership dues as a reserve at year end.

d. Public Relations Manager – Hanna Thobani

e. Club Growth Director – Karen Hall

f. Program Quality Director – Carlos Millones, DTM

g. District Director – Virginia Keast, DTM

Reporting on our District Dashboard: Lost 10 clubs throughout the year. Mix of Corporate and Community, with challenged clubs facing tragedy, sudden loss of members, location, leadership, etc. We were able to help a number of clubs merge and grow stronger, minimizing further club loss (6 to 3 this Spring. Double barrel names chosen so history of original clubs is not lost! To reach the distinguished membership component, we do two hundred more members and we have 6 weeks remaining to reach out and grow our community to finish as strong as possible! To reach our distinguished clubs component, we must reach 41; currently, we have 30 Distinguished clubs, and many who are close, so 41 clubs are possible – do keep connecting with those clubs!

18. Miscellaneous Reports

a. Report on 2024-25 Contests – Virginia Keast

- a. 1st year in 8 years that we held a fall contest: Table Topics, and in person! Kudos to Area and Division leaders who were challenged with finding locations and support. Much learned for the future. Amazing division winners waiting patiently until May conference for their final.

b. Report on D21-D96 Merger – Paul Rostagno, DTM

- a. Joined Toastmasters in 2004, as District Director, then Program Quality Director, then Toastmaster of the Year.
- b. Historic re-uniting to bring us together to become one of TI's largest districts.
- c. Toastmasters Int'l deemed necessary for North American clubs: too many districts with too few clubs. Idea is to have bigger districts. Starting with 2 pilot projects, Group A and our pilot Group B (5 districts: 2,15,21,32 and 96)

c. Report on 25-26 Re-Alignment – Virginia Keast

- a. Thanks to our Re-Alignment Chairs Karen Burgess and Sharook Daroowala
- b. Next year we our merged district will have 9 divisions and 42 areas, with 4 to 6 clubs each.

- d. Report on 25-26 District Leadership – Virginia Keast
 - a. With thanks to our DLC Chair Carole Murphy and committee:
 - i. Steven Leung, Jan Ireland, Tom Jones, Carol Carter, Colt Cash, Kim Dickie, Darren Frew, Kerry Deschamps, Lydia Burchell, Stefano Cossalter
 - b. Elections will be held on May 27 at our historic joint 21-96 online District Council mtg. Outstanding positions will be filled under the guidance of our incoming District Director.

18. No Unfinished Business.

19. No New Business.

20. Announcements:

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Upcoming Joint District 21 & 96 Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Elect new leadership and approve alignment.

Next DCM: to be determined by new D21 Executive Team for 2025-2026.

21. The meeting was adjourned by Virginia Keast at 8:58 pm.