



Toastmasters International District 96 Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Online via ZOOM

Time: 6:31 to 8:42 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

District 96 Director James Heeren, DTM, PRA and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave introductory remarks. Jim requested that participants remain muted unless called upon to speak, and for voting members with questions to put them in chat or raise their hands.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

District 96 Administration Manager Lise Minovitz, DTM gave the territorial acknowledgment: "Our Toastmaster clubs meet on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Coastal Salish people, specifically the Lummi of Semiahmoo, Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. It is our privilege to live, work, play, create and speak on these lands. We are indeed grateful that we thrive in the beautiful Pacific Northwest."

3. REMEMBRANCES

Jim Heeren led a short remembrance for any members or members' family members who have passed away since our last meeting. One minute of silence was observed.

4. DISTRICT MISSION

On behalf of Program Quality Director Sherry Ernst, DTM who is travelling, Jim Heeren read out the District Mission: "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence."

5. DISTRICT VISION

Club Growth Director Louisa Davis, DTM, PID, reviewed the District Vision: "No member left behind!" She said this was a change from last year's mission "No club left behind." The reason is that individuals drive the clubs. The goal is for all members to be engaged, have a good and fun experience, and be in thriving clubs.

6. INSPIRATIONAL OPENING – DISTRICT 96 REVIEW

Jim Heeren presented a photo slideshow called "A Decade of Review." It showed highlights of District 96's leadership and achievements since its launch on July 1, 2014 until this day:

- In 2014-2015, Gene Vickers, DTM was the original District 96 Governor. The District Theme was "In District 96, it's all about ME (Member Experience)." Sharookh Daroowala of Quay Speakers was a Finalist in the World Championship of Public Speaking in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. There were 143 clubs at year end.
- In 2015-2016, Kusayla Nathan, DTM was District Director. There were 145 clubs at year end.
- In 2016-2017, Kerry Deschamps, DTM was District Director. There were 144 clubs at year end.
- In 2017-2018, Lydia Burchell, DTM was District Director. From August 23-26, the 86th Annual Toastmasters International Convention took place at the Vancouver Convention Centre. It drew a crowd of almost 2,400 people from 51 countries. There were 137 clubs at year end.
- In 2018-2019, Eleanor Kroeger, DTM was District Director. Margaret Page was elected as second Vice President in Chicago. There were 130 clubs at year end.

- In 2019-2020, Louisa Davis, DTM was District Director. That was the year the pandemic started and in-person meetings were curtailed. That was also the year that Pathways was rolled out. The theme was “A Year of Imagine if ... every member is in a thriving club, every club has enough members to make it truly enjoyable and fun, we celebrate every speech and every learning in a safe space, and we like and care for each other.” With the pandemic, there were more outdoor in-person meetings. There were 128 clubs at the year end.
- In 2020-2021, Carole Murphy, DTM was District Director. The theme was “Find Your Voice!” The district vision centered on building strong, chartered clubs that offered support and encouragement to emerging and struggling clubs. The In Memoriam section added to D96 Website. The Annual Conference Theme was "Shoot the Moon - It's Your Time to Shine." The conference was referred to as “the best conference that never happened”; due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, it was changed to an online format. However, the spirit of the members still shone through. There were 115 clubs at year end.
- In 2021-2022, Mimi Vanderheide, DTM was District Director. Louisa Davis was elected to the Board of Directors. There were 104 clubs at year end.
- In 2022-2023, Lily Laverton, DTM was District Director. We were emerging from the pandemic, and in-person meetings began again. There were online and hybrid contests as well as an in-person award event. During that year, the CGD and PQD swapped roles. There were 91 clubs at year end.
- In 2023-2024, Paul Rostagno, DTM was District Director. The theme was “No Club Left Behind,” and D96 had a Select Distinguished Year. They had the first in-person conference in a few years: “Spring to a New Centennial” (commemorating 100 years of Toastmasters) at the University Golf Club. The conference featured inspired voices (Christopher Chen singing the anthem), pageantry with the Banner Parade, delicious food, and dynamic speakers. Stefano Cossalter was a Finalist in the International Speech Contest in Anaheim, California with his “The Pudding Principle” speech. The district was awarded a District Club Strength Award at the conference, and representatives from the district “Stormed the Stage” with its Select Distinguished banner to receive its award. There were 99 clubs at year end.
- In 2024-2025, Jim Heeren, DTM is District Director. The theme is “Leave No Member Behind,” and we have been celebrating the Centennial. There was a Fall Event with Region Advisor Rose Kirland as well as both In-person and Online Spring Contests. In March, the district was #1 in the world for paid clubs. We had in-person district leadership training, a one-day fall event at Douglas College. This is the year of the realignment transition as District 96 will merge with District 21 on July 1. There will be a celebration at the D96 Spring Conference with the theme “The Grand Finale.”

7. CREDENTIALS REPORT

Immediate Past District Director Paul Rostagno, DTM gave the Credentials Report. He announced that quorum requirements have been met. Results of the Credentials Report are below.

<i>Number of Paid Clubs - x</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Total possible votes (2 * x)</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>Quorum = more than 1/3</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Quorum</i>	<i>ACHIEVED!</i>
<i>Club votes present (a)</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>District Officer votes present (b)</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Total Votes (a+b)</i>	<i>90</i>

*Most motions require a majority to pass: 46
(greater than 50% of the votes cast) ((a+b)/2)+1)*

8. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Lise Minovitz presented the Proposed Agenda for the meeting, which was also sent out earlier. She asked if there were any amendments. As there were none, the agenda was adopted.

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|---|---|
| 1. Call to Order | 14. Program Quality Director Report |
| 2. Territorial Acknowledgement | 15. Club Growth Director Report |
| 3. Welcome and Introductory Remarks | 16. Public Relations Manager Report |
| 4. Remembrances | 17. Division A Report |
| 5. District Mission Review | 18. Division B Report |
| 6. District Vision Review | 19. Division C Report |
| 7. Inspirational Opening – District 96 Review | 20. Division D Report |
| 8. Credentials Report | 21. Division E Report |
| 9. Adoption of Agenda | 22. New District 21 Realignment Report |
| 10. Approval of Previous DCM Meeting Minutes | 23. District 21 Transition Committee Update |
| 11. Audit Committee Report | 24. Announcements |
| 12. Profit and Loss Report | 25. Adjournment |
| 13. District Director Report | |

9. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Lise Minovitz stated that the minutes of the previous meeting on September 21, 2024 were posted earlier. She asked if there were any amendments. As there were none, the minutes were approved.

10. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of Clinton Kam, Audit Committee Chair, District Finance Manager David Nguyen presented the Audit Committee Report. There were no questions on the Audit Report, and the report was accepted.

D96 2024: Audit Committee Report – Mid-Year Report Apr 7, 2025

From Audit Committee Chair: Clinton Kam

The Mid-Year Audit was successful at submitting it on time. Thanks to fellow audit committee members of Audrey Yan, and Karrie Cookhouse as well as Finance Manager David Nguyen for their assistance.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Period was between July 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024. The Net Income for the period is \$14,375.35 as of Dec 31, 2024. The monthly net loss for the last month is \$7,204.20.

Revenue by Type, Year to Date as of Dec 31, 2024

- Total revenue was \$38,284.44. \$37,514.44 was from membership revenue and \$750.00 from other revenue.

Expenses by Type, Year to Date as of Dec 31, 2024

- Total expenses were \$23,889.09. The top 3 expenses for the 6 months were from lodging, recognition and travel.
- Reimbursement requests have been approved by the district director with adequate documentation.
- Payments that are in excess of \$500 USD were properly approved by the district director and an additional member of the district trio. All transactions were authorized in advance with adequate documentation.
- There were no Debit Card transactions made during July 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024.

11. PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT

District Finance Manager David Nguyen presented the Profit and Loss report. Highlights of the report follow.

District 96
Available Funds (In CAD)
Month Ending 02/28/2025

Available Funds	
Cash & District Reserve	
Cash	
Cash - BMO Bank of Montreal (4259)	8,853.33
Total Cash	8,853.33
District Reserve	50,648.20
Total Cash & District Reserve	59,501.53
Minimum District Reserve Required at Year End	(16,779.70)
Total Available Funds	42,721.83

Profit and Loss Statement: This report highlights the P&L between July 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025.

- Actual district revenue is 50,718.32, compared with the budgeted amount of \$27,930.46. This shows a variance of 12,787.86. Actual revenue is mainly because of additional membership dues.
- Actual total net income is 14,123.64, compared with the budgeted amount of 12,523.88. This shows a variance of 26,647.52. As stated above, much of the actual revenue variance is based on membership payments. A large portion of the expenses have gone toward Education and Training, the District Bucks program, Club Growth, and Travel.

District 96
Profit & Loss (Actual vs. Budget Summary) (In CAD)

	07/01/2024 Through 02/28/2025		Variance
	Actual	Budget	
District Revenue			
Membership Revenue	49,492.90	37,930.46	11,562.44
Other Revenue	1,225.42	0.00	1,225.42
Total District Revenue	50,718.32	37,930.46	12,787.86
District Expenses			
Conference Expenses	(3.40)	0.00	(3.40)
Recognition	5,251.76	4,135.90	1,115.86
Club Growth	657.17	4,045.00	(3,387.83)
Marketing Outside of Toastmasters Expenses	3,895.56	5,407.01	(1,511.45)
Public Relations Expense	1,681.31	1,898.00	(216.69)
Education & Training Expense	698.13	6,009.20	(5,311.07)
Speech Contest Expenses	49.06	126.00	(76.94)
Administration Expenses	4,432.38	3,430.00	1,002.38
Food and Meals Expense	5,283.85	7,200.00	(1,916.15)
Travel Expense	4,675.54	7,592.75	(2,917.21)
Lodging Expense	7,380.33	8,373.20	(992.87)
Other Expenses	312.56	0.00	312.56
Allocation Expenses	2,280.43	2,237.28	43.15
Total District Expenses	36,594.68	50,454.34	(13,859.66)
Total Net Income	14,123.64	(12,523.88)	26,647.52

As there were no objections, the P&L statement was accepted as presented.

12. DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT

Jim Heeren presented the following report.

- **Our District Success Plan:** Jim shared his thoughts on how to be a successful district. He stressed the importance of developing a success plan and emphasized how the District Trio remained true to the core values of Respect, Integrity, Service, and Excellence. Also important were the operating principles of Trust, Honesty, Teamwork, Safe Space, and Fun. He tries to inspire leaders and help people avoid burnout through friendships and fun (e.g., contests).
- **Membership Payments and Club Growth:** The following strategies and initiatives have been implemented to encourage member and club growth: Moments of Truth, More Club Coaches (with Area Director & Div Director participation), Incentive program (District Bucks), Speechcraft (to build up smaller clubs), "What's Possible" Options for Low-Member Clubs, Acting on New Club Leads, Open Houses, and Training.

- **Distinguished Club Strategy:** The strategy for clubs achieving Distinguished or better status has focused on: Pathways and New Member Orientation, Multiple Training Opportunities, Incentive Program (District Bucks), and Recognition.
- **DCP Status:** The chart below shows the district's current status. There are 90 paid clubs; 99 is needed to be Distinguished. The team is working on encouraging clubs and club members to make payments and chartering new clubs. To date, there have been 3,771 member payments and 17 Distinguished Clubs.

District 96

2024-2025

Apr

Export

District Performance

Division and Area Performance

Club Performance

District 96 Performance

Paid Clubs

Base	To Date
99	90

Goals

Distinguished	99
Select Distinguished	100
President's Distinguished	102
Smedley Distinguished	104

Payments

Base	To Date
4,003	3,771

Goals

Distinguished	4,044
Select Distinguished	4,124
President's Distinguished	4,204
Smedley Distinguished	4,324

Distinguished Clubs

Base	To Date
99	17

Goals

Distinguished	40
Select Distinguished	45
President's Distinguished	50
Smedley Distinguished	55

Membership Payments

Late	Oct	Apr	Total	New	Charter	Total	Active Clubs
9	1,307	1,345	2,661	864	246	3,771	109

- **Ranking:** District 96 is #3 in the region and #33 in the world for member payments. The district needs 283 additional member payments to be Distinguished, 353 to be Select Distinguished, 433 to be President's Distinguished, and 553 to be Smedley Distinguished. Jim is hopeful that we can be at least President's Distinguished.
- **Stronger Clubs:** The district began with a base of 1,844 members and an average of 18.6 members per club. As of the end of March, there were 2,070 members and an average of 19.7 members per club.
- **The Grand Finale:** The final District 96 conference with the theme "The Grand Finale" will take place on May 16 & 17. The Venue is the Delta Hotel in Burnaby and the Conference Co-Chairs are Reza Sahraei and Kelvin Tsang.
- **Next Year's Leaders:** Area Directors are responsible for recruiting their successors. Division Directors are responsible for encouraging leaders in the division to step forward.
- **Club Elections:** Club elections for next year's officers should take place on starting in the first week of May.
- **Important Dates:** The District requested completion of Area Club Visits Reports by April 30; the TI deadline is May 31. On Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 pm, there is a D96 and D21 Combined District Council Meeting. It will include the District leader election and approval of the new District 21 Realignment.

13. PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR REPORT

On behalf of Program Quality Director Sherry Ernst, DTM, Jim shared a video with her message. Sherry thanked everyone who helped out with training and reminding people to attend the conference. Jim also presented the following report on her behalf.

- **Education Program:** The Toastmasters education program is an important part of every Toastmaster's journey, and it is a critical aspect of all club meetings.

- **Educational Training:** So far this year, the district has had 1 Train the Trainer session, three Masterclass Workshops, 15 Club Officer Training sessions, 8 Pathways Orientation Sessions, 2 Toastmasters Leadership Institutes, and 3 District Officer Trainings. This adds up to over 30 training sessions. Thanks to all the trainers who had facilitated these sessions, and especially the COT/TLI co-chairs Christopher Chen and Donna Ho, Pathways Trainer Maureen McBeath, and District Chief Judge Carole Murphy.
- **Club Officer Training Results:** In Round 1, there were 490 officers trained, 81 clubs with 4+ officers trained, and 30 clubs with all seven officers trained. In Round 2, there were 462 officers trained, 79 clubs with 4+ officers trained, and 18 clubs with all 7 officers trained. Many club officers from other districts attended these trainings.
- **Education Levels Completed:** To date, 568 education levels have been completed. There have been 41 Level 5 completions and 49 Triple Crown Awards. In addition, 3 members have completed DTMs: Charito Canero, Christopher Chen and Erin Hallenburg.
- **DCP Progress:** To date, there are 17 Distinguished clubs. In addition, there are 32 “almost Distinguished” clubs, 49 clubs with 5+ DCP Goals met, and 60 Clubs with 4+ DCP Goals met.
- **Events:** Events have included fall training with awards and many online and in-person area and division speech contests. Upcoming events include the in-person Spring Conference on May 1 & 17 at the Delta Grand Villa Hotel & Casino in Burnaby. The theme is “The Grand Finale,” and members are encouraged to register now.
- **Program Quality Team:** Thanks are extended to the following people on the Program Quality team:

Reza Sahraei, Conference Chair	Sugandh Rakha, Trainer
Kelvin Tsang, Conference Chair	Geoff Woodfield, Trainer
Donna Ho, TLI Manager	Vincent Li, Trainer
Christopher Chen, TLI Manager	Janice Parkinson, Trainer
Louisa Davis, Trainer	Donna Ho, Trainer
Ahmed Hussain, Trainer	Vincent Li, District Zoom Coordinator
Maureen McBeath, Trainer	Maureen McBeath, Pathways Training Specialist
Aly Jamani, Trainer	Fortune Alibi, Recognition Chair
Melody Helleouet, Trainer	Gurkiran Sandhu, Recognition Chair
Carole Murphy, Trainer	Violet Bing, Speech Contest Coordinator
Neila Scott, Trainer	Carole Murphy, District Chief Judge
Elson King, Trainer	

14. CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR REPORT

Club Growth Director Louisa Davis, DTM, PID presented her report.

- **New Clubs this Year:** The following 11 clubs have launched or been reinstated this year: Let’s Get Infinite, RSL Toastmasters, Red Leaf Raconteurs (SFU Staff), Electrify your Speech (BC Hydro), Veeam Amer SDR, Veeam Amer Sales, Queer Voices, Kwik Witted Linguists (KWL), Glagol Russian-Speaking, District Dialoguers (North Van), and DESI Toastmasters.
- **New Clubs in the Pipeline:** The following new clubs are being planned or reinstated: PMI Vancouver (reinstating on May 1 lunch), BC Financial Services (starting on May 8). There are also a number of warm leads to follow up on for next year. In addition, an April 24 webinar with Pat Johnson and Karen Hall for Human Resource professionals is being planned to introduce the program to their companies.
- **Renewals Plan:** The plan for renewals is as follows:
 - Have “What’s Possible” Meetings to find out the status of, reinstate, or integrate the following 3 clubs: BCSC Talking Watchdogs Club, Branching Out, and Tech Talkers.
 - It was noted that the following 4 clubs are closing: Langara Toastmasters Club, Precision Speakers, Svante Toastmasters, and Talking Titans Toastmasters Club.
 - Open 2 new clubs: BCFSa Toastmasters and PMI Vancouver Toastmasters.

- Help these 6 clubs need 8 members: Cariboo Club (needs 1 member), City of the Arts Club (needs 5 members), Easy Speakers (needs 1 member) FocusPoint Toastmasters (needs 3 members), Money Matters Toastmasters (needs 1 member), and Telespeakers (needs 1 member).
- Obtain payments from the following 6 clubs: District Dialoguers, Glagol Russian-speaking Toastmasters, Invictus Accounting Group, Talktioneers, Veeam AMER Sales, and Veeam AMER SDR.
- **Distinguished District:** The district started with a base of 99 paid clubs and now has 90 paid clubs. It needs 99 clubs to be Distinguished, 100 to be Select Distinguished, 102 to be President's Distinguished, and 104 to be Smedley Distinguished. The district started with a base of 4,003 member payments and now has 3,771 payments. It needs 273 more payments to be Distinguished, 353 to be Select Distinguished, 433 to be President's Distinguished, and 553 to be Smedley Distinguished.
- **District Bucks:** The District Buck program has been very successful. Clubs are reminded to hand in their TI Gift Certificates in exchange for District Bucks and to redeem their District Bucks by June 15. The remaining incentives are an Open House (\$50), Speechcraft (\$50 USD/kit), Distinguished by May (\$50), and Video promotion (\$25). So far this year, clubs have earned over \$8,000. Sunshine Toastmasters has earned the most District Bucks (\$325).
- **Club Growth Team:** Louisa expressed appreciation for all the members of the Club Growth Team:

Kerry Deschamps, Moments of Truth Specialist	Lydia Burchell, Renewals Chair
Anson Hardjojo, Incentives Chair	Tara Leduc, Speechcraft Support Chair
Darren Frew, Youth Leadership Chair	Douglas Bottrill Corporate Club Liaison
Johanna Rzepa, Club Retention Chair	Joanne Morrison, Kickstarter Chair
Christopher Chen, Club Extension Chair	
- **Club Coaches:** Louisa congratulated all the club coaches for their efforts:

Ahmed Hussain, PM3	Lise Minovitz, DTM
Bernadette Lam	Louisa Davis, DTM, PID
Bobby Bai, DTM	Megan Wang, PI5
Carole Murphy, DTM	Neulessa Lundy-Major, VC3
Charito Canero, DTM	Padmalosini Muthukumaran, IP5
Donna Ho, DTM	Paul M. Rostagno, DTM
Elaine Crisostomo, IP5	Reza Sahraei, EC5
Erin C. Hallenburg, DTM	Sherry L. Ernst, DTM
Geoffrey Woodfield, PM5	Stefano Cossalter, DTM
Janice Parkinson, DTM	Sugandh Rakha, DTM
Kim Dickie, PM3	Tiffany Mark, PM3
Laurel L. Sukkau, IP5	
- **Club Sponsors:** Louisa congratulated the club sponsors:

Boris Reitman	Meredith Toward, DL1
Christie Goode	Michael L. Snyder, TC3
Christine Harris, DL4	Mustafa Akhtary, LD2
Christopher Chen, DTM	Reza Sahraei, EC5
Christopher Chen, DTM	Reza Sahraei, EC5
Colin Kristiansen	Sarah C. Swanson, ACB, ALB
Laura Robinson, EH3	Siobhan Robinson
Louisa Davis, DTM, PID	Sujata Duggal
Mark Hurrell, DTM	
- **Club Mentors:** Louisa congratulated the club mentors:

Alan Banifatemi, EC5	Joanne Morrison, DTM
Ali Mokhtarian, TC5	Laura Robinson, EH3
Ann M. McDowall, LD4	Louisa Davis, DTM, PID

Anna Sharonova, LD5
 Carole L. Fisher, MS1
 Charito Canero, DTM
 Christie D. Kennedy Manuel
 Christie Goode
 Christine Harris, DL4
 Colin Kristiansen
 Dai R. Manuel, DTM
 Eric Scott, CC
 Hardip K. Viridi, IP5

Michael L. Snyder, TC3
 Mike Bell, CC
 Pam Muir, PM5
 Reginald Boaler, CTM, CL
 Reza Sahraei, EC5
 Samantha J. Warner, DTM
 Sarah C. Swanson, ACB, ALB
 Sharookh Daroowala, DTM
 Siobhan Robinson
 Tanya Horne, DL5
 Tom Leson

15. PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER REPORT

On behalf of Public Relations Manager Natalie Findlay, Jim Heeren presented the following report.

- **Review of Newsletter:** The PR campaign is based on spreading news about Toastmasters. The chart that follows shows the open and click rates of the district newsletter, which hovers around 60%. She clarified that higher rates in the fall may have been due to interest in the fall event.

Month/Year	Opened	Open Rate%	Clicks%
August 2024	1131	70.1%	3.8%
September 2024	1148	64.2%	2.8%
October 2024	1019	60.3%	16%
November 2024	1118	65.4%	3.5%
December 2024	979	57.8%	4.4%
January 2025	803	51.3%	3.8%
February 2025	927	60.9%	3.0%
March 2025	783	52.1%	3.3%

- **Mailchimp Account:** By reorganizing the Mailchimp contacts, fees for using this account were decreased (\$276/month in July 2024 compared to \$132/month in April 2025). This translates to a savings of \$144/month.
- **Specific PR Promotions:** By publicizing events throughout the district, the PR committee supports a variety of events and campaigns. They include Pathways Training, the Masterclass, TLIs, COTs, the incentive tracker and District Bucks program, the fall event, and the Spring Conference. All assets for the Spring Conference have been approved.
- **PR Channels:** Aside from the district newsletter, district information has been distributed through the following channels: D96 Facebook group (1,467 members), D96 Instagram group (384 followers), D96 LinkedIn group (306 followers), D96 YouTube group (450 subscribers), and D96 Eventbrite group (647 followers). There has been an increase in followers since last year. Below is how to connect within D96; this information is always included in the D96 newsletter.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BCToast>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/District96>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/d96toastmasters/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/d96toastmasters/>

Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/members/186695559/>

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/district-96-toastmasters-15528251163>

Website: <https://d96toastmasters.ca/>

Slack: <https://d96toastmasters.slack.com>

- **What's Next?:** With the combining of D96 and D21, the PR team is working with the Realignment team and D21 to combine the best of the two districts. The objective is to have an even better experience in the 2025-2026 Toastmaster year.
- **PR Team:** Natalie thanked the members of this year's PR Team: Johanna Rzepa, Melody Helleouet, Lucy Aulange, and Rob Evans.

16. DIVISION A REPORT

On behalf of Division A Director Kim Dickie, Area 14 Director Rohan Aurora presented the following report.

- **Division A Team:** Division A comprises 4 areas and area directors: A11 (unfilled for 5-6 months), A12 (Eddy Yang), A14 (Rohan Aurora), and A15 (Kelvin Tsang). Rohan noted that they largely communicated via WhatsApp.
- **Division Director Comments:** Kim Dickie stated on a slide, "I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve as Division A Director this Toastmaster club year. In keeping with the "No club left behind" and the striving for distinguish status for all; my primary goal is to finish strong. We were able to accomplish a lot in Division A, growing our Corporate Clubs, with Open Houses and SpeechCraft sessions, and encouraging our Community clubs to growth. Louisa Davies has successfully contributed with assigning club coaches and initiating innovative ideas as to how to attract members. Our four areas all held successful contests and the other Divisions better bring their "A" game to the District contests. We are also being helped by Ann McDowall as she assists by fulfilling Area 11 Club visits - I believe that her five visits have already been scheduled. I want all members of the Division to know that no matter which club they belong to, they will not be forgotten in the remaining 3 months and will have the continuous support from their Area and Division Directors. We will finish strong, leaving no club behind!"
- **A11 Status:** There has been no AD for 5 or 6 months, and Kim has taken care of many of the visits. Rohan will help out when he is in town. All five clubs have renewed, and 45.7% club officers were trained. So far, 2 area visits have been completed, and the other 3 are scheduled for early this month. Burrard Toastmasters hosted the A11 contest and will host the Division A contest on Wednesday, April 30. VanCore Toastmasters hosted a SpeechCraft, gaining 8 new members. Queer Voices chartered on March 1; the club officers received training after the COT deadline. Burrard Toastmasters has enough DCP points to be Smedley Distinguished and Be Amazing to be Distinguished.
- **A12 Status:** Eddy Yang is the AD. Area visits will be scheduled shortly. So far, 5 of 6 clubs have renewed; Invictus Acctg needs an invoice to renew. In the area, 69% of club officers were trained. Dunsmuir Power hosted a successful A12 contest. St. Paul's Toastmasters hosted an Open House and gained two new members. Dunsmuir Power has enough DCP points to be Select Distinguished.
- **A14 Status:** Rohan Aurora is the AD. Area visits will be scheduled shortly. All five clubs have renewed, and 54% of club officers were trained. Aplomb KPMG & Telus Gardiners have been working with Louisa to increase membership. Large TV ads at KPMG have helped. KPMG has 15 new members, and Telus has 5 or 6 new members. Advanced Speakers has enough DCP points to be Distinguished and VETC to be President's Distinguished.
- **A15 Status:** Kelvin Tsang is the AD. All 5 clubs have renewed and 3 out of 5 area visits have been scheduled for later this month. In addition, 48.5% club officers have been trained. Kelvin organized and

ran successful contests for both A14 & A15 (covering for Rohan Aurora, who was away). Fluor had an Open House with 20+ guests, and Glagol Russian Speakers chartered.

17. DIVISION B REPORT

Division B Director Harold Liu reported on Division B.

- **Area Directors:** Harold acknowledged the Division B areas and area directors: B21 (Minal Chiplunkar), B22 (Jenny Qian), B23 (Dilshad Aulakh), B24 (Padma Muthukumaran), and B25 (Hardip Viridi, who recently joined the team).
- **Meetings and Contests:** Division B held 2 Council Meetings on August 2nd, 2024 and February 1st, 2025. The division has also had or will have several contests: Area B21/B25 in-person (March 29th, 2025), Area B22 in-person (February 10th, 2025), Area B23/B24 in-person (March 24th, 2025), Area B21 online (March 28th, 2025), Area B22 online (March 22nd, 2025), Division B in-person (April 1st, 2025), and Division B online (April 11th, 2025).
- **New Clubs:** The following 3 new clubs have chartered: Empowering Entrepreneurs in B22 (August 5th, 2024), Let's Get Infinite in B24 (August 9th, 2024), and Veeam AMER Sales in B24 (January 28th, 2025).
- **Year-End Focus:** The last few months of the year will focus on the following: 2nd Round Area Club Visits (26 in total), Nomination of Area Directors and Division Director (Succession planning), Area Director Exit Meetings, Division B Director-Elect Handover Meeting, and accompanying as many Area Directors on club visits as possible.
- **Club Visits:** Most club visits have been done. 54% of club visits were conducted (and the reports uploaded to TI), 11% incomplete, 4% scheduled, and 31% not scheduled in the TI system. 6 club visits will be completed in April. ADs will be encouraged to more frequently monitor the needs of every club.
- **Paid Members:** As of April 23th, there are 381 paid members for the April 2025 renewal cycle. This includes new/reinstated paying members since October 1st. This shows a drop in membership from the last renewal cycle, which had 491 paying members; 16 active clubs have had decreased in membership after the April renewal. Previously, there were 12 clubs with 20 or more members; now there are five. One club has 7 members. In addition, one club with 20 members decided to still meet as a group but not as renewed Toastmasters members due to the Trump embargo.
- A few corporate clubs have been undergoing mergers and acquisitions; existing members have prioritized adapting to the new environment over doing speeches or left and sought other employment. The plans are to assist the clubs wherever needed.
- **DCP Goals:** 13 clubs have achieved 5 or more DCP goals achieved. Night Vision has achieved 10 DCP goals and Vancouver Toastmasters has achieved 7 goals; both have 20+ members.
- **Other information:** 8 clubs are eligible for a coach, 4 of which are corporate clubs and 1 of which is an advanced club. 5 coaches have been assigned. All active clubs except for 2 met or exceeded the minimum number of officers trained for the spring session.

18. DIVISION C REPORT

Division C Director Reza Sahraei reported on Division C.

- **Area Directors and Support Team:** Reza acknowledged and thanked the Division C areas and Area Directors: C31 (Sugandh Rakha), C32 (Gurkirandeep Sandhu), C33 (Tom Leson), and C34 (Shima Parsa). He also thanked the Division C Secretary Sherry Stanczyk.
- **Division Council Meetings:** Five district council meeting have been held so far: August 18, 2024, September 15, 2024, November 1, 2024 (in-person), December 15, 2024, and January 26, 2025.
- **Online Contests:** Division C held its online contests early. There was an online contest for Areas C31, C32, C33, C34, and E52 on February 15, 2025. The online Division C Contest was held on February 22, 2025.
- **In-Person Contests:** The in-person Area C33 Contest was held on March 1, 2025. The Area C31/C32 Contest, was held in Prince George on March 15, 2025. The Area C34 contest was held at the Delbrook Community Centre on March 22, 2025, and the Division C Contest will be held on April 26, 2025 at the same location.

- **New Clubs:** Two new clubs have been chartered: District Dialoguers in C31 (February 27, 2025) and Veeam AMER SDR in C33 (January 28, 2025).
- **AD Visits:** In Round 1, 100% of club visits were completed. In Round 2, 45% of club visits have been completed and 27% have been scheduled so far.
- **Club Office Training:** In Round 2, all 7 officers of these clubs were trained: Prince George Toastmasters (C31), Sunshine Toastmasters (C33), Veeam AMER SDR (C33), Advanced Leaders Lab (C34), and Quay Speakers (C34). In addition, 17 out of 22 clubs have had 4 or more officers trained, and all clubs in Area C33 received a COT DCP point. Division C also provided COT trainings.
- **Year-End Focus:** The last few months of the year will focus on: Club Open Houses/Joint Meetings (building on membership), Club Officer Elections (Succession planning), AD visits, submission and confirmation of Education Awards, and Submission of Club Officer Lists ... to Exit with a Bang!

19. DIVISION D REPORT

Division D Director Melody Helleouet gave the following report.

- **Club Status:** There are 4 areas in Division D: D41, D42, D43, and D44. This includes 21 base clubs and 15 paid clubs. Of these clubs, 7 have enough points to be Distinguished. Some clubs are closing or are being monitored.
- **Area Directors:** Melody acknowledged the Division D areas, Area Directors, and their clubs: D41 (Ali Mokhtarian – just assumed role in April, supporting five clubs), D42 (Sina Hosseini – supporting five clubs), D43 (Bernadette Lam – supporting five clubs, but one suspended), and D44 (Tanan Kesornbua – supporting four clubs). She extended a special thanks to Past Area 41 Director Saarthak Kumar for serving from July 2024 to March 2025 and ensuring a smooth transition to his successor Ali Mokhtarian.
- **Division D Challenge:** To be Distinguished, Division D needs 4 more paid clubs and 5 more Distinguished clubs. To be Select Distinguished, it needs 4 more paid clubs and 6 more Distinguished clubs. To be President's Distinguished, it needs 5 more paid clubs and 7 more Distinguished clubs. She noted that 7 clubs have earned 5+ DCP goals so far; in addition, 3 clubs have earned 5+ DCP goals and have 20+ or +3 members so far.
- **Club Officers Training:** In Round 2, 68% clubs of clubs completed COT with a minimum of 4 club officers trained. In some clubs, all 7 club officers have been trained.
- **Club Membership Renewals:** 76.2% of clubs with a minimum of 8 members have renewed so far.
- **Area Director Visits:** The Area Directors completed their Round 1 visits very promptly. In Round 2, about 70% of visits have been completed in Areas D41, D43 and D44. It is a work in progress for Area D42.
- **DCP Status:** So far, 7 clubs are Distinguished.
- **International Recognition for Division D Clubs:** Melody congratulated the following 2 clubs for receiving international awards: FortiMasters Toastmasters and Glenlyon Toastmasters.
- **Division D contests and events:** The Area Contests and the Division Contest went smoothly and had a good turnout. She thanked everyone who helped out, including Bernadette Lam and Chief Judge Carole Murphy. She also thanked Saarthak Kumar for his efforts in Kickstarter meetings
- **Pathways:** Melody observed that only about 75% of Division D members were enrolled in Pathways. Also, only 35% have completed Level 2 or higher. She hopes to increase Pathways engagement in the division.

20. DIVISION E REPORT

Division E Director Ahmed Hussain reported on Division E from work in Princeton BC.

- **Area Directors:** Ahmed acknowledged the Division E areas, Area Directors, and their clubs: E51 (Geoff Woodfield, supporting five clubs including the newly chartered Red Leaf Raconteurs), E52 (Donna Ho, supporting five clubs), E53 (Neila Scott – supporting five clubs, including the newly chartered RSL Toastmasters), and E54 (Carole Murphy – supporting four clubs). He says it is “the most proactive self-sufficient AD team I’ve had the pleasure of working with.”

- **Club Renewals:** Almost all clubs in the division with at least 8 members have renewed. The exception is Money Matters, which needs one more member.
- **Club Visits and Training:** All ADs have scheduled their visits and plan to complete them within the required timeframe. Seventeen out of 20 clubs (85%) have at least 4 officers trained.
- **District Bucks:** Across 13 clubs, \$1,850 has been earned in District Bucks incentive rewards (for DCP, COT, Renewals, CSP, and Open Houses); however, only \$218 has been spent. He that Concur training next month will be helpful for the club treasurers. Seven clubs (Douglas, Arc'teryx, Red Leaf Raconteurs, Sundogs, RSL, Lincoln, and Positively Speaking) have not been using the incentives program and could be encouraged to do so.
- **End-of-Year Goals:** The division will continue pursuing the above incentives, especially open houses & club growth. In addition, it will continue club coaching and mentorship efforts and finalize visit reports. Other goals include finding AD & DivD successors well in advance and maximizing Pathways representation at every club. Currently, 9 out of 20 clubs have enough points to be Distinguished or higher, which puts the division in the running to be President's Distinguished. Ahmed thanked his ADs for making it a successful year.

21. NEW DISTRICT 21 REALIGNMENT REPORT

Karen Burgess, DTM, PDD, RA reported on the new District 21 realignment, which combines Districts 96 and 21. The Realignment Committee is co-chaired by Karen Burgess and Sharookh Daroowala, DTM.

- **New Divisions:** There will be 9 divisions of 4-5 areas each in the realignment: Division A (Victoria & South Vancouver Island), Division B (Vancouver Island), Division C (Sea to Sky, Sunshine Coast, N. Shore & Vancouver), Division D (Vancouver), Division E (Vancouver, Coquitlam, Port Moody), Division F (Burnaby), Division G (Delta, Richmond, Surrey), Division H (Surrey and the Fraser Valley), and Division J (Northern, Kootenays, Okanagan)
- **Size of Divisions:** Most divisions will have 23-29 clubs. The divisions will have between 262 and 457 members.
- **Realignment Criteria:** Efforts were made to evenly distribute stronger and weaker clubs and accommodate potential growth. The plan takes into account geography, club strength, meeting formats (in-person, hybrid, online), and recent club losses or additions.
- **Vote on Realignment:** The vote will take place at the Joint D21 and D96 meeting on May 27, 2025.

22. DISTRICT 21 TRANSITION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Immediate Past District 96 Director Paul Rostagno, DTM shared highlights of the transition committee's work.

- **Districts 21 & 96 Merge:** The merging of districts is a mandate from TI Board of Directors due to their assessment that there are too many districts and too many small districts; districts must have at least 130 clubs. He displayed a visual showing how Mary Morrison, DTM, PID has been spearheading the Region 1 Realignment, which covers districts in BC, the Yukon, Alaska, and Washington state. The outcome is that Region 1 will be divided into two districts: one in Canada and one in the US. The transition was divided into three buckets: the District Leadership Committee (chaired by PDD 96 Carole Murphy, DTM), the District Realignment Committee (chaired by Karen Burgess, PDD 21, RA), and the District Transition Committee (co-chaired by Paul Rostagno and PDD 21 Phyllis Nielsen, DTM). There will be a Joint D21 and D96 Business Meeting on May 27 facilitated by Gary Schmidt, PIP.
- **Timeline Constraints:** Paul reviewed deadlines for key actions before and after the merger. They include such action points as preparation of key reports, essential meetings, selecting district leaders, club and district officer training, merging the websites.
- **Transition Committee Responsibilities:** Key things that need to be merged include the Websites, Zoom and Eventbrite Accounts, Assets, and Email Addresses. They also involve determination of need for more DivDs and ADs, joint communications, year-end financials, recognitions, training, incentives, and 2025/2026 district contests.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In her role as District Leadership Chair, Carole Murphy announced the candidates whose names were being put forward for the 2025-2026 year: Louisa Davis (District Director), Christopher Chen & Melody Helleouet (Program Quality Director), Mark Hurrell (Club Growth Director), Frank Tanguay (Division D Director), Susan Gage (Division G Director), and Hardip Viridi (Division H Director). She hopes the current Division Directors can help find candidates for the unfilled slots; if not, it will be left to the incoming District Trio.
- In her role as District Chief Judge, Carole Murphy said she was looking for judges for the May 13 Online District Contests and the In-person District Contests at the District Conference on May 16-17. She needs two judges from each division.
- Jim Heeren reminded participants to register for the Grand Finale Conference on May 16-17.
- Jim Heeren also reminded participants of the election at the Joint District 21 and 96 meeting on May 27.

24. ADJOURNMENT

District 96 Director Jim Heeren adjourned the April 23 2025 District 96 Council Meeting at 8:42 pm.