



**Toastmasters International
District 21 Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting Minutes**

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Online via ZOOM

Time: 7:00 to 8:43 pm

- I. **Call to Order:** District 21 Director Louisa Davis, DTM, PID called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Territorial Acknowledgement:** District 21 Administration Manager, Sherry Ernst, DTM, recognized the ancestral and unceded territories of the 200+ Indigenous communities that reside in British Columbia and the Yukon territory.
- III. **Welcome and Introductory Remarks:** Louisa Davis acknowledged the dignitaries attending the meeting including Michael Bown, International Director; Karen Burgess, Regional Advisor; Jim Heeren, Past Region Advisor and Past District Director; Past District Directors Virginia Keast, Carole Murphy, Phyllis Nielsen, Joanne Morrison, Lydia Burchell and all the current executive team. Zoom Master, Chat Monitor and Timer were appointed for the meeting. Louisa recognized the incredible coming together of Districts 21 and 96 to bring the best of both to this newly formed District. Some examples of extra programs this year were the quarterly mailing of educational ribbons earned to each club, the 101 Challenge, the Royal Challenge, and District Bucks earned.
- IV. **Credentials Committee Report:** Darryl Farquhar, DTM, confirmed that 34/58 voting delegates are registered and present at the time the meeting started. A quorum constitutes a majority of district executive members (30/59), and thus quorum has been met. No formal votes were required today.
- V. **Adoption of Agenda:** Louisa Davis presented the Proposed Agenda for the meeting. As there were no amendments, the agenda was adopted.

Proposed Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Territorial Acknowledgement
3. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
4. Credentials Committee Report
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Previous District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. 2026-2027 Alignment report updated - Phyllis Nielsen, DTM, PDD
 - b. Announcement of District Officer Appointments for 2026-2027 – Melody Helleouet
 - c. Storm the Stage Update – Melody Helleouet and Lydia Burchell DTM
8. New Business
 - a. Club Officer Training - expectations: new materials & formats
 - b. Contest option discussions
 - c. Club Building
9. Announcements
10. Lessons learned - shared by division

11. Adjourn

- VI. Approval of Previous District Executive Meeting Minutes:** Louisa Davis noted the minutes of the previous DEC meetings were circulated in advance. As there were no amendments proposed during the meeting, the minutes were adopted.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. 2026-2027 Alignment report updated - Phyllis Nielsen, DTM, PDD

Phyllis Nielsen announced that there has been an update to the District Alignment Committee report since it was approved at the last District Council meeting on April 12, 2026, due to a number of club closures since that time.

Divisions A, B, C - no change.

Div. D - Speak Your Mind moves from D34 to D30.

Div. E - Areas E40 and E41 are combined.

Div. F - Areas F51 and F52 are combined. Rich-Del Friendly Dragons moves from F54 to G60.

Div. G - Burnaby Entrepreneurs moves from G60 to F54. The Professional Edge moves from G64 to G62.

Div. H - Positively Speaking moves from H73 to H71.

All Areas renumbered within their respective Divisions to eliminate the closed Area numbers.

The Chair proclaims that the realignment is approved, will be submitted to World Headquarters and presented to the District Council meeting on September 19, 2026. The Final Alignment Report is distributed for review.

- b. Announcement of District Officer Appointments for 2026-2027 – Melody Helleouet

Melody Helleouet announced Core Team appointments: Sherry Ernst, Administration Manager, Sandeep Mehra, Public Relations Manager, Hardip Viridi, Finance Manager as the core leadership team, along with previously elected Trio Members and Division Directors.

Area Directors appointed:

Division A: Oloruntobi Muniru - Area A01

Division B: David Guss - Area B10; Frank Tanguay - Area B11; Jessie Zhang - Area B12; Maggie Komar - Area B14

Division C: Mariama Barrie - Area C20; Shivain Maini - Area C21; Matthew Corlett- Area C22; James Cooper - Area E40

Division E: Nam Phan - Area E41; Manojanth Kannandasani - Area E42; Bhat Varsha - Area E43

Division F: Francesca Hansen - Area F51; Leo Ling - Area F52; Zac (Zay Lyan) Bo - Area F53

Division G: Charie Ginete-Illon - Area G62; Lois Kerr - Area G63; Sola Fagbamiye - Area G64

Division H: Sarah Brown - Area H70; Kelly Arendt - Area H71; Monica Watson - Area H72; Arjun Sumal - Area H73

Division J: Samantha Hildebrand - Area J80; David Scott-Moncrieff - Area J81; Colin Bunston - Area J82; Joyce Forsythe - Area J83; Pallavi Shetty - Area J84

Vacant Positions include:

Area Directors for A02, A03, A04, C23, D30, D31, D32, D33, F50, G60, G61

Logistics Manager, Parliamentarian, Credentials Chair, Audit Team Lead, District Chief Judge

- c. Storm the Stage Update – Melody Helleouet and Lydia Burchell, DTM

Lydia Burchell, DTM, PDD outlined the “Storm the Stage” teamwork to reach 86 Distinguished Clubs this year, so that District 21 can be recognized at the Annual Convention being held in Vancouver in August. So far 80 clubs have reached Distinguished status, thus we only need 6 more to go before June 30.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Club Officer Training - expectations: new materials & formats - Mark Hurrell, DTM

Mark Hurrell explained the new training modules to be used for club officer training and how attendance is being tracked and reported.

- b. Speech Contest option discussions (decision at DC meeting) - Mark Hurrell, DTM

Mark Hurrell took a poll on which speech contests the District will offer this year. One idea proposed was to hold the speech contests at the Club, Area, and Division levels in the Fall. A vote to finalize these proposals will be held on September 19, 2026.

- c. Club Building strategy - Ahmed Hussain

Ahmed shared the goal of forming 35 new clubs this next year, at least 2 prior to the August convention and offering every club under 12 members a coach by August. Ahmed and team will focus on developing community clubs and specialty clubs.

IX. Announcements

Melody Helleouet announced a special event called “Evening with the Champs” with World Champions Darren LaCroix and Ed Tate will be held in conjunction with the Convention.

X. Lessons Learned

Division Directors met with their teams to discuss successes and lessons learned in breakout groups.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.