



District 26 - District Council (DC)

Annual Business Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2024

Corrected Items 23-25 to renumber

The District 26 Council's Annual Business meeting convened on April 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM MDT via Zoom with 77 District Leaders present.

1. Director Hill called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. The meeting opened with the Program Quality Director providing an inspiration and reading the Club and District missions.
3. Director Hill welcomed and introduced the Region 4 Advisor, Jamie Pickering, DTM, PDD (D25).
4. Keith Horowitz, DTM, Zoom Master and Logistics Manager provided the procedures for the meeting, including, muting, unmuting, raise hand and using chat feature.
5. Standing Meeting Rules and Roberts Rules of order, newly revised, were covered by Parliamentarian, Linda Rhea, DTM, PDG, PRA to include clarification of participating in discussions during the meeting.
6. Credentials, Quorum and Voting process was discussed by Credentials Chair, Beth Boaz, DTM, PID. Beth first presented the Credentials Report as follows:

"it's my pleasure to present the credentials, report the certification or that of a quorum. And then, after a bit, I will also explain the voting procedures. the number of clubs in District 26 in good standing, which means they have at least 8 members

Determination of Quorum

- ▶ # of Clubs in District 26 in good standing: **113**
- ▶ # of Club Votes Available (2 votes/club): **226**
- ▶ # of Votes Needed for Quorum (1/3 club votes): **75**
- ▶ There are 96 club representative votes present. **As such, we have achieved a quorum.**
- ▶ Plus Actual # of District Officer Votes (out of 31): 21 registered

The total ballots available are 117

A simple majority would be 59; a 2/3 vote would be 78.

7. Chair, Director Hill announced that "there being a quorum present, we will proceed with the business of the District Council." She asked whether there were any questions for Beth on the credentials report before we go forward." There being none, Director Hill invited Beth to return to explain the voting procedures.
8. Beth: "the way that the election will work if you pre-registered by the deadline. And if you are actually listed as a club president or vice president, education. And if your club is in good standing, I know that's a lot of ifs.
 - a. When we launch an election, you will receive an email.
 - b. That email will come from noreply@electionrunner.com
 - c. So if you don't find it, check your spam; check your junk mail.
 - d. Anyway, once it arrives, it will include your link to vote.
 - e. If you are a club officer, you will have one or 2 votes.
 - f. If you are a club officer and also a district leader, you may have up to 3 votes.
 - g. You will only receive 1 email with one ballot. However, don't worry. These are weighted ballots, so if you vote once you will cast all 2 or 3 of the ballot that you are entitled to.
 - h. To reiterate, if you are entitled to more than one , you'll only be able to vote that ballot once.
9. We are going to do a practice run. Just so that during the course of the meeting we're not having to worry about whether people are getting their ballots or not.
 - a. So, in a moment, I will be launching the election.
 - b. You will receive an email with the title of Spring 2024, District 26 Council Meeting Practice.

- c. You will then click the link that you receive in your email. You will have 5 to 10 minutes to submit your ballot.
 - d. We will wait for those votes to be tallied
10. it's a pretty thought-provoking question. So you could be thinking about it. I will let you know that the question is, what is your favorite season? Spring, summer, fall, winter. So be thinking about that. It will take me just a moment to launch that election, so I will stop sharing my screen to do that, and if you would like to proceed with other business while I get that launched - back to you, District Director.
 11. A practice ballot [please vote for your favorite season] was sent to all registered attendees with the results announced later.
 12. Adoption of Agenda: There were no objections stated and the agenda was approved as circulated.
 13. Fall DC Minutes were tabled due to technical issues.
 14. The Finance Report presented by DFM, Diane Nuss, DTM, showed an increase in the District Reserve and improvements in revenue, expenses, and net income.
 15. District Leader reports: Public Relations Manager, Mary Hoftiezer discussed the PRM activities including ongoing promotions for the district conference, recruitment of area directors and the success Toastmasters global advertising campaign. She also shared plans for a new promotion to attract users to district clubs via LinkedIn.
 16. Reports were given by Division representatives, highlighting membership growth, successful speech contests and the need for area directors. The Division Directors stressed the importance of continued work until June 30th and expressed gratitude for their teams' efforts.
 17. Trio Reports: Club Growth Director, Ruth Prentice announced the April 30th Speechcraft training workshop led by the D26 Speechcraft Chair, Terry Ploski, and guest presenter CGD from D13, Fred Vornbrock. She also highlighted efforts to improve club standing using club coaches for such clubs as Above the Clouds and invited members to attend the upcoming club coach training. Ruth announced that Drew Roberts will represent the District as the Rotary Alliance Chair. Finally, the Open House Chair, Linda Rinehart is available to help clubs with Open House events to potentially increase their membership.
 18. Program Quality Director, James Gable, reported that twenty-one clubs have reached distinguished or better status and that the district is on track to meet its goal while announcing the 2024 conference lineup.
 19. Alignment Committee, Co-Chair, Victoria Scholes, DTM, IPDD, Denver Division Director, presented the District Alignment Report, proposing a reduction in the number of areas within each division. Victoria displayed the report highlighting changes in the District's divisions. She explained that some clubs would be relocating to new areas for better balance and consideration for all members. Alignment Co-Chair Marcia Wood, DTM, PDD, and Metro Division Director, provided clarification regarding the "comments column" for the Metro Division. She explained that in this context, alignment refers to the geographical placement of clubs located in Englewood and Centennial.
 20. The chair, District Director Ann Hill, acknowledged PDD Joyce Feustel (from the Excelsior, Timberline, and SMAC Clubs), who had a question regarding ToastAbility. Joyce stated, "I have a question about ToastAbility. I had trouble hearing your explanation on that topic. This was a club I was a part of when I first started. Could you please give a quick overview? I want to understand their mission better, as they served people with various disabilities and others. What is their current status?"
 21. Victoria shared with Joyce that the ToastAbility club in Denver, which caters to members with disabilities and others, would be relocating due to insufficient member commitment. A new club plans to take on its name and number to continue to cater to members with disabilities. Victoria emphasized this approach, underlining the importance of the club's legacy.
 22. Chair, District Director, Ann Hill asked whether there were any other questions regarding the 2024-25 Alignment for the committee. There being no other questions or comments, as directed by Parliamentarian, Linda Rhea, the Chair stated If there are no objections, the District 26 Realignment recommendation by the Alignment and the District Executive Committees, effective July first, 2024, will be adopted.

Hearing no objections, the proposed alignment is approved. I direct the Administration Manager, Deborah Horowitz, DTM, to cast a unanimous ballot for the approval of the alignment report.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. We will make the changes on the district website, just so you can see each of them with their locations, and updated information found on the Find-a-Club. We will have that done prior to July first, after the conference.

23. Chair, Director Hill reintroduced Region 4 Advisor Jamie Pickering to discuss the upcoming changes in Toastmasters regions effective July 1. Jamie explained that our District is undergoing a regional change because of a realignment at Toastmasters World Headquarters. The Board of Directors reviewed all fourteen regions and made the decision to decrease this number. As a result, there will now be seven regions in the US. Consequently, District 26 and other districts in Region 4 will move to Region 3, which will also include Districts 16, 23, 25, and 55. Region 3 will extend from the Texas border up to Iceland starting July 1.
24. The District Leadership Committee Report was presented by DLC Chair, Linda Rhea.
- a. Positions Nominated:
- i. District Director: James Gable, DTM
 - ii. Program Quality Director: Ruth Prentice, DTM
 - iii. Club Growth Director: Kim Angell and Anoop Kumar
 - iv. Division Directors:
 - Denver Division: Irene Valenzuela.
 - Eastern Division: Open.
 - Foothills Division: Terry Ploski.
 - Metro Division: Greg Howell.
 - Northern Division: Reena McCoy.
 - Southern Division: Chad Manifold.
 - Urban Division: Tom Wendling.
25. Before wrapping up her comments, Linda issued a heartfelt appeal: "I encourage you once again to think about the area director position. Please connect with others; I know that at least five of us on this call had someone who said, 'I see potential in you.' We never envisioned ourselves in leadership roles, but that one individual's belief in us instilled the confidence we needed to move forward."
26. Chair, Director, Ann Hill explained Toastmasters protocol for elections:
27. Positions that have two or more candidates will be allowed to speak for 2 minutes in alpha order by last name to address the Council. Each candidate speaks on their own behalf. If a candidate is not present, an authorized representative may speak for the candidate.
- a. Candidate Speeches shall not contain negative information about another candidate.
 - b. The balloting for each office takes place immediately following candidates' speeches.
 - c. The final rule from Toastmasters is if there is only one candidate nominated, No speech is given.
 - d. Where there are two candidates for a position, each is invited to provide a monitor to observe the ballots as they are being counted.
 - i. For this process, the Credentials/Voting Chair, Beth Boaz, will move to a breakout room with a laptop and the two monitors during the time Council members are casting their ballots.
28. Mike Akins, DTM, PDD, spoke on behalf of nominated Club Growth Director candidate, Kim Angell, who could not attend.
29. Nominated Club Growth Director candidate, Anoop Kumar, spoke for himself.
30. For the uncontested candidates, District Director, Program Quality Director and the six Division Directors, Director Hill dispensed with the secret ballot and asked that the Administration Manager to cast one ballot for each nomination in the form of a voice vote.
31. Director Hill declared and congratulated elected officers for the 2024-2025 program year: DD James Gable, PQD Ruth Prentice, Division Directors: Irene Valenzuela, Terry Ploski, Greg Howell, Reena McCoy, Chad Manifold and Tom Wendling elected officers.
32. Before moving to the Breakout room, Beth reminded the Council members that "If you received your practice ballot, you should receive your ballot for this election in exactly the same manner."
33. Chair, Director Hill informed the Council members that once the ballot is initiated, the voting will occur for a duration of 10 minutes.
34. Beth Boaz, DTM, PID, Credentials Chair provided the results of the voting for the Club Growth Director to the Chair, Director Hill.
35. In a very close election, we have Kimberly receiving 52% of the votes, while candidate Anoop received 48%. For the position of Club Growth Director, for the 2024-2025 program year, congratulations to Kim Angell for 2024-2025.
36. DLC Chair announced that Anoop Kumar would be willing to serve as the Eastern Division Director. His will be an appointment by the incoming District Director.

37. Chair, Director Hill recognized Ruth Prentice for her efforts in saving ToastAbility and thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting. She encouraged members to step up into district leadership.
38. Chair, Director Hill made the following announcements before adjourning the meeting.
 - a. District Conference next weekend
 - b. International and Evaluation Speech Contests
 - c. Silent Auction during the Conference
 - d. May 1st – June 30th, membership campaign - "Beat the Clock," When you add five new, reinstated, or dual members, you will receive a discount from the Toastmasters Store, along with a ribbon for your banner.
 - e. The district continues to offer the Step-Up Distinguished Club Program. If you are advancing from Distinguished to Select or to President's Distinguished this year, congratulations! Clubs like Golden Toastmasters will be recognized with the Step-Up Distinguished Club Program award at the Hall of Fame later this year.
 - f. As far as the Global Advertising campaign, we are re-contacting the 968 prospects, especially those who may have contacted the closed, corporate clubs.
39. There being no objections, the Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Minutes Revised #23 and Approved by: Ann Hill, District 26 District Director 2023-2024.

Distribution: District Council Members