

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:15 AM CT, 10:15 AM MT

Pledge of Allegiance

The District Director (DD) Rebecca Pontaski, DTM provided the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading District Mission

Sara Orr, Cub Quality Chair, (CQC) read the District Mission.

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

District Director (DD), Rebecca Pontaski, DTM introduced members at the head table and extended recognition and thanks to the Current and Past International Presidents, Current and Past International Directors, Current and Past District Directors that are in the audience, Zoom Master and Chat Master. All virtual members asked to mute their microphones. Virtual attendees were also asked to type their questions into the Zoom chat. DD Pontaski discussed membership and voting.

Membership

- The members of the District Council are the Club Presidents; the Vice Presidents Education; and the members of the Executive Committee. Only members of the District Council will be able to speak in debate, make, second, or vote on motions. When speaking, please show your hand (in person or virtually) state your name and the name of the club you are representing.
- All comments will be limited to one minute. The person who has the comment will have one minute to present. Green will show at 50 seconds, yellow at 55 seconds and red at 60 seconds. The speaker will then be muted at this time. Who is the timer? Where is that person?
- During this meeting we will utilize the district's software program to vote.

II. Credentials Committee Report

Certification of Quorum

The Chairman of the Credentials Committee MyChelle Andrews, Distinguished Toastmaster, Past District Director, provided the credentials report.

- Total Clubs 53
- # of Eligible Club Votes 96
- # of Available Club votes 42
- # of District Officer votes 11
- Constitutes a Majority 27
- 2/3rd Majority 35
- Quorum 42 (Quorum established)

III. Housekeeping

Unanimous Consent

On occasion, the Chair will use a procedure called “unanimous consent” to expedite business not considered controversial. You will hear the phrase “without objection” or “if there is no objection” in each case. If you wish the issue to be debated and voted upon, just call out “I object,” or simply ‘objection.

Adoption of Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda, which was approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Administration Manager Report

District Administration Manager (DAM), Melissa Knott presented the audience with an opportunity to ask questions of or raise objections to the Spring District Council Meeting. With no objection, the Minutes were approved.

V. Present District Committee Reports

Audit Committee

Wendy Amai, District Audit Committee Chair, presented to the District Council the 2023 – 2024 Mid-year Audit Report.

Financial Report Committee

Richard Williams, District Financial Manager, presented a financial report for 2023-2024.

VI. Special Orders

District Reorganization – Assignment of Clubs

District Director, Rebecca Pontaski, reported the following assignment has occurred since the last District Council meeting in the fall of 2023.

- PMDP Toastmasters, chartered on November 13, 2023 has been assigned to Central Division, Area 12

With no objections, the District Council ratified this assignment.

Realignment of Divisions/Areas

MyChelle Andrews, DTM, District Realignment Chair, presented the district alignment by the district alignment committee.

With no objections, the District Council approved the realignment.

VII. Nominations of Elections

Jeff Miller, DTM, IPDD, Chair of the District Leadership Committee (DLC), reported the names of the committee members followed by the nominations of each office. The DLC, has no nominations nor has the district Director received seven days prior to the District Council meeting notification to run from floor, we will dispense elections for Program Quality Director nor Club Growth Director.

For the office of District Director, **Distinguish Toastmaster, Analisa Martinez** has been nominated by the District Leadership Committee.

Without objection, we will dispense with the secret ballot and the Administration Manager is instructed to cast a single ballot for the candidate. The Chair declares **Distinguished Toastmaster, Analisa Martinez** elected to the office of District Director.

For the office of Division Central Director, **Amy Miller** has been nominated by the District Leadership Committee.

Without objection, we will dispense with the secret ballot and the Administration Manager is instructed to cast a single ballot for the candidate. The Chair declares **Amy Miller** elected to the office of Division Central Director.

For the office of Division East Director, **Tom Schaper** has been nominated by the District Leadership Committee.

Without objection, we will dispense with the secret ballot and the Administration Manager is instructed to cast a single ballot for the candidate. The Chair declares **Tom Schaper** elected to the office of Division East Director.

For the office of Division North Director, **Garrett Hennessy** has been nominated by the District Leadership Committee.

Without objection, we will dispense with the secret ballot and the Administration Manager is instructed to cast a single ballot for the candidate. The Chair declares **Garrett Hennessy** elected to the office of Division North Director.

VIII. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Program Quality Director

Distinguish Toastmaster, Analisa Martinez, provided a 2023-2024 program quality report.

Club Growth Director

Distinguish Toastmaster, Analisa Martinez, provided a 2023-2024 club growth report.

District Public Relations Manager

Michael Miller provided a 2023-2024 public relations report.

Club Quality Chair

Sara Orr provided a 2023-2024 club quality report.

District Distinguish Toastmaster Committee

Distinguish Toastmaster, David Gardner provided a 2023-2024 distinguish toastmaster report.

IX. Announcements & Good of the Order

District Director

Distinguish Toastmaster, Rebecca Pontaski, provided the following message to the District.

In late November of 2023, I received a letter from the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, discussing concerns they have about the future viability of our District.

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After much deliberations and consultations with our advisors committee Analisa and I have decided that it is in the best interest of the members of the district to submit a letter to the Toastmasters International President requesting the district be consolidated with other districts.

I know you will have many questions but first let me review how we came to this decision. This decision was not taken lightly. Over the past several years the district has not been able:

- Fill all the division and area director positions.
- Fill the TI recommended committees.
- Fill a full trio with continuous rotation.
- Building New Clubs.
- Sustaining quality clubs.

This has caused the trio members and the few who have volunteered to carry a majority of the district workload, resulting in significant burnout, stress, and illness.

- We currently only have one candidate for all three trio positions. The DLC attempted to contact every person in the district that was eligible to hold a trio position if they would be willing to serve. All said no.
- People that have been identified and mentored in our succession planning process, have had to relocate out of the district, had life changes resulting in Toastmasters taking a lower priority, or have promotions resulting in more responsibility at work and less time for toastmasters.

All of these are valid reasons for not moving forward in toastmasters and with the fact that we have 540 unique members who have paid their dues this period we simply do not have the people to run a district.

Based on the numbers of members that have renewed this period as of April 10th

of Clubs in good standing (8 or more members) = 48

of Clubs with 20 or more members = 4 soon to be 5

of Clubs with 12 or more members = 18

of Clubs with 7 or fewer members = 12

of Unique Members paid this period = 540

Total # of dues paid this period = 616

We understand that it might take up to a year for the consolidation to take place. During this time we will continue to function as we have in the past. Please be patient with us as we continue to support the District with our limited resources. We are still in need of Area Directors and have many positions available. Please be sure to let Analisa know if you or someone in your club are interested in serving this upcoming year.

You ALL are very important to the success of the District and your own personal growth with Toastmasters. I thank you for embracing our District, encouraging each of us to work towards our personal and District goals collectively. Together, we can face these challenges, as we work towards accomplishing our goals. The District is here to support YOU, our members.

Are there any more announcements or comments for the good of the order?

Meeting adjourned at

After discussion, the 2023-2024 District 23 budget was approved.

Reports by Senior District Officers

Immediate Past District Director

Jeff Miller, Immediate Past District Director, provided an overview of the district in 2022-2023.

Public Relations Manager

Michael Miller, Public Relations Manager, provided an overview to include team members, club corner news and updated on the Toastmaster branding. He also provided a high-level overview of the District's Communication Plan.

Club Growth Director

Cheryl Gentry, Club Growth Director, announced her team, provided an overview of how to submit club leads. She also provided a high-level overview of the district's Marketing Plan and LinkedIn Campaign.

Program Quality Director

Analisa Martinez, Program Quality Director, provided an overview of what the Training Committee will be providing in 2023-2024. She presented 'Pathway Postcards', which will be mailed out to those that complete levels within Pathways. Ms. Martinez ended her presentation by announcing that contest season is coming up fast, stay tuned for additional information.

District Director

Rebecca Pontaski, District Director, presented the 2023-2024 District, Club and Member incentives for the year.

New Business

2023-2024 Speech Contest Format

Analisa Martinez, Program Quality Director, provided information relative to Toastmasters International and the choices that each district can choose from to conduct their speech contests. The new rule that came from Toastmasters International Board of Directors, and overruled the Speech Contest Rulebook, stated that contestants & judges must be in person for Area, Division, & District contests even for hybrid contests. She explained further that at the last District Executive Committee, Division and Area Directors reviewed the options and chose the following for this speech contest year.

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- In-person – District Level
- Hybrid – Division Level
- Hybrid – Area Level

Hearing no objection, the 2023-2024 speech Contest format as presented above was approved.

Area Directors are appointed or elected for 2024-2025

Rebecca Pontaski, District Director, explained per the Toastmasters International District Leaders Handbook, every year the District Council decides if the next year's Area Directors are appointed or elected. She advised the council; our District would continue to appoint the Area Directors as District 23 has done for several years.

Hearing no objections, area Directors for 2024-2025 will be appointed.

Announcements

Next District Executive Committee

Scheduled for October with details to be announced.

Next District Council Meeting

The next District Council meeting will be in conjunction with the District Conference. Date and time to be communicated at a later date.

Closing remarks/Adjournment

Reminder Area Director club reports should be completed as soon as possible. Area and Division Success plans should be submitted for review.

Motion to Adjourn

Not hearing any comments for the good of the order, the 2023-2024 September District Council the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm MT / 1:00 pm CT.