



**DISTRICT 35  
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING  
APRIL 29, 2023**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by District Director Jennifer Kibicho, DTM.

The Tech Team was welcomed:

Paul Van Dyck, Zoom Master

Yuriy Ksenidi, Timer

Jennifer Kibicho displayed and read the District Mission statement.

Jennifer Kibicho reviewed the meeting agenda.

**Credentials Committee Report – Eric Young, DTM:**

He explained the process of determining a quorum and reported that we have far exceeded the quorum for this meeting.

**Approval of Sep, 17, 2022 minutes as published:**

Jennifer Kibicho asked if there were any additions or corrections. Hearing none, the minutes are adopted as published.

**District 35 Procedures Manual Update – Procedures Update Chair Ed Thelen, DTM:**

They found two sets of items to be changed.

1. Removing the word “District” where it wasn’t necessary in the titles, e.g. District Finance Manager or District Speech Contest.
2. Small wording changes.

Other changes included some rule changes for speech contests, announcing who’s present at events, service awards, changes to protocol for nonpaying members at the spring conference (performance metrics for some to meet), general wording changes, etc.

Ed Thelen moved for adoption of the District Procedures Manual update (noting that some typographical errors will be corrected). Richard Bryans, Heart of Eau Claire 9465 and Area N3

Director, seconded. Jennifer asked for discussion. There was none. The poll was closed with 99% yes votes and 1 no vote. The update for the District Procedures Manual was approved.

**Alignment Committee Report – Alignment Representative Jim Kohli, DTM, PDG, PID:**

The subject is complicated; he’ll share a PowerPoint. We need to meet TI requirements for areas and districts; we were out of alignment. Summary of changes: Division B will no longer exist. Clubs in Division B were allocated to other divisions. The minimum number of clubs in a division is 12; B is at 11. The number of clubs in divisions A, B, D, and F is at 49, with 5 clubs closing; the minimum is 48.

## New Balance of Clubs Per Area

Division A	Division C	Division D	Division E	Division F	Division N
16 Clubs	17 Clubs	18 Clubs	14 Clubs	14 Clubs	13 Clubs
A1 – 5 Clubs	C1 – 4 Clubs	D1 - 6 Clubs	E1 - 4 Clubs	F1 - 5 Clubs	N1 - 4 Clubs
A2 – 5 Clubs (including one chartering soon)	C2 - 4 Clubs	D2 - 6 Clubs	E2 - 5 Clubs	F2 - 4 Clubs	N2 - 4 Clubs
A3 – 6 Clubs	C3 - 5 Clubs	D3 - 6 Clubs	E3 - 5 Clubs	F3 - 5 Clubs	N3 - 5 Clubs
	C4 - 4 Clubs				

Additional slides, including a map showing the new distribution of divisions, were also shared.

- Division N will remain unchanged.
- Divisions E and F will have minor changes.
- Divisions **A, B and D** will have major changes.

The 2023 Realignment Proposal is published [on the district website]. Jim Kohli moved for adoption of the District 35 alignment as presented. Kris Pool, Sheboygan 2121, seconded. Jennifer Kibicho asked for discussion.

Jim Kohli discussed the Stately Discourse club, which plans to leave District 35. Carol Mather, Club 498 Fond du Lac Toastmasters, moved to amend the proposal by moving the Thriving Communicators Club from area E3 to area E1. Jim Kohli seconded the motion. Jennifer asked for additional discussion. Jim Kohli said the effect of the amendment is rebalancing area E1 without introducing lack of compliance with area E3. The Committee made the [alignment] recommendation before finding out about the club’s plan.

Richard Bryans, Heart of Eau Claire, N3 Director, VPM, wondered what D35 is doing to leverage the Rotary alignment to garner more clubs for both Toastmasters and Rotary. Tom Rozga, Parliamentarian, said that's not germane to the discussion. Richard Bryans amended his comment: he supports the D35 alignment. His question is, "Where is District 35 going to be years from now if we continue to have this attrition? Jennifer answered that the district is working on that. She requested to continue with the business of the meeting; she'll leave the Zoom room open afterward to discuss the future of the district.

Keith Cumiskey, VPE Rockwell Toastmasters: Regarding the Stately Discourse Toastmasters leaving District 35 – could someone explain how that could happen? Jennifer Kibicho replied that after receiving the email from the area director, who's the sponsor of the club, they reached out to TI and found that yes, online clubs can leave a district. Many of the members are in a different time zone, so it makes sense for them to leave the district. Robert Wall, Rockwell AB Toastmasters, added that if a club becomes an in-person club, they must align to the area the members are in, which they may be considering doing, so they would have to realign.

Yuriy Ksenidi, VPE Allis Chalmers, noted that 6 clubs are shown in the new area A3 per slide 7 (above) – but it looks like in the Division A major changes slide [a later slide in Jim Kohli's PowerPoint presentation], we will end up with 5 clubs after the realignment is complete. After review, Yuriy realized that the alignment had taken that into account, and his concerns were addressed.

Tony Cooper, VPE Coulee Region Toastmasters: His club is in Area C4. There are only 4 clubs in the area; 2 of those have close to minimal membership. Does it make sense to add another club in the area just so it makes sense to have an area? Jennifer Kibicho responded that for the realignment they have to follow what's on the Dashboard. Next year, the realignment will be looked at again.

Carol Mather brought up a point of order: "We should vote on the amendment first, then have further discussion; I'm not hearing discussion on the amendment now."

Jennifer asked if there was further discussion. Hearing none, she stated that we'll vote on the amendment. Robert Wall, Rockwell AB Toastmasters, asked to have the amendment restated. Carol Mather restated it: "I move to amend the proposal by moving Thriving Communicators Club from E3 to E1." The vote was 96% yes, 4% abstaining. The amendment is approved.

Jennifer Kibicho stated that we will now vote on the main motion, the alignment as amended. President Michael Graney, DJAB, Generally Speaking, brought up a point of order, asking, "Don't we open up debate for the motion first?" Jennifer Kibicho asked if there was any discussion on the amended motion. Hearing none, she stated that the discussion was closed. Vote on the amended alignment motion: 94% yes, 6% (4 people) abstained.

Jennifer Kibicho stated that we want Division B back and will do our best to make sure it happens.

### **District Leadership Committee Report – DLC Chair Keith Cumiskey, DTM, PDD:**

They have been working diligently to identify and encourage candidates. The candidates are:

District Director: Jason Feucht

Program Quality Director: Robert Wall

Club Growth Director: Theresa Flynn and Spring Sun

Division A Director: Julie Gerash

Division C: Lee Samson  
Division D: Paul Anderson  
Division E: Brandon Birrenkott  
Division F: Yuriy Ksenidi  
Division N: Cole Monroe

He stated that the Division N candidate has withdrawn his candidacy.

Jennifer Kibicho asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Paul Van Dyck moved that the nominations be closed, the rules be suspended, and the District Administration Manager be instructed to cast a ballot for the uncontested candidates to be approved as nominated. Kris Pool, President, Sheboygan 2121, seconded. The vote was 99% yes and 1% (1 vote) no.

Theresa Flynn and Spring Sun, candidates for Club Growth Director, each gave a timed 2-minute speech.

Eric Young, Credentials Chair, stated that we'll use Election Buddy to vote with the link sent via email. Those eligible to vote more than once received the appropriate number of emails. Each candidate may have 1 person in the breakout room to observe the voting results. After the emails were being received, Eric Young went into a breakout room, inviting observers to join him there.

A few who didn't receive the email to vote spoke up. Efforts were made to get emails to them but not all were received (due to email filters apparently). Eric Young said that following today they will do an audit of the voting. Jennifer Kibicho asked Eric Young if we have a winner; if the votes not received would make a difference. Eric Young replied that we have a clear winner. The results are 57 votes (71.25%) for Theresa Flynn, DTM and 23 votes (28.75%) for Spring Sun, MS1.

### **Mid-Year Audit Report – Audit Committee Chair Ed Thelen, DTM, PDD:**

The mid-year audit was performed on Feb. 12, 2023 for the period July 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022. The Committee consists of Ed Thelen, Mike Dill, DTM and Bethanie Gist, DTM.

The Committee looked at organization, substantiating transactions, and policy review. They found that the recordkeeping was good. The hard work of Paul Freiberg, DTM, District Finance Manager, is to be commended.

#### Recommendations:

- No transactions with sales tax since we're nonprofit, but the committee understands that it may not be realistic with some items such as food purchased on that day. Recommend doing the necessary steps for vendors such as Amazon.
- Prior approval for expenses over \$500 are hard to find in Concur. Recommend that Concur be modified so the audit can find these things that need to be approved.
- Expenses over \$500 should be authorized in advance. These tend to be the same each year, therefore the Trio may be able to pre-authorize these for the year.
- Some deposits had no supporting documentation; he and Paul Freiberg discussed improvements for these.

Efficiency and effectiveness of district finances were discussed.

### **Division Director Reports:**

Division A, Yuriy Ksenidi, PI2 – "The A Team: Journey Continues"

Division B, Joseph Domblesky, PM2 – "We Have Fought the Good Fight"

Division C, Lee Samson, PI2 – "Challenges, Successes and Snowstorms"

**Officer installation was done by Monnica Rose, DTM, Region 5 International Director.**

Jennifer Kibicho then asked the District Director-elect, Jason Feucht, to say a few words, which he did. He thanked us for this honor and this responsibility.

**Division Director Reports, continued:**

Division D, Ronda Borowski, DTM – "Winding Down"

Division E, Carol Mather, DTM – "Division E: 3 Areas and Growing"

Division F, Paul Anderson, CC, ALB – "Never Giving Up"

Division N, Brandon Birrenkott, CC – "Spring Into Action!"

**Public Relations Report** – Jennifer Kibicho gave the report on behalf of Public Relations Manager Kathrine Yets, VC5, who is at a conference.

Literacy Services of Wisconsin – Kathrine proposes the possibility of student sponsorship for this cause. As far as proposing Toastmasters to college students, she proposes for each region to go to local campuses to see if a poster or two can be posted or put in the libraries. We need a flashy flier flying around the towns. Why have I not seen a good Toastmasters sticker? We need a good sticker. She has high hopes that there are plenty of fish out there who just need a shinier bait.

**Club Growth Director Report – Robert Wall, DTM:**

We got back up to 90 clubs, that's our goal. We have 72 paid clubs as of April 22<sup>nd</sup>; we expect to close the year with 85-86 clubs. Membership is at 2375 of the 2566 required as of April 22<sup>nd</sup>; our numbers are gradually going up. He's proud of the efforts of his team and the clubs in the district. We've laid a solid foundation for our CGD-elect. What's left to do in the next two months: We need to work on three things.

1. Work on instilling finding new members into the club's culture. The #1 challenge this year is lack of members. Our #1 strategic priority is to find new members and work on how to serve them.
2. Set your club up for success this coming year. Prepare officers to take over.
3. Set District 35 up for success this year by finding new club leads. Let the Club Growth Director know; they'll take it from there.

With two whole months to go there's till time to strengthen your recruiting and plan for success.

**District Finance Manager Report – Finance Manager Paul Freiberg, DTM:**

The district budget is drafted in accordance with TI guidelines. The Trio manages it. He submits monthly reports to TI for approval. District audits are done twice a year. The District expenses are under budget by \$10,518.35. Available funds are \$42,328.75. PowerPoint slides with more information were shared. Forty-eight clubs have district dollars available; the list was shared. We're managing within the budget. The 2023-2024 budget process will start in July.

**Program Quality Director Report – Jason Feucht, DTM:**

He wants to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve this year as Program Quality Director. He wants to thank the team: Teri McGregor, Keith Cumiskey, Kris Pool, and the Division Directors.

- Training this year focused on tangible items to help clubs find success such as the Club Success Plan.
  - 66% of club officers were trained this past summer.
  - 61% of club officers were trained this past winter.
  - Nine clubs had 14 of 14 officers trained.
- Check out the Club Support sessions on the District 35 YouTube page. A few sessions will be held yet this year.
- Spring conference is this coming weekend. Education sessions start tomorrow evening.
- We had an exciting speech contest season this year which wraps up this coming weekend.
- We currently have 6 clubs which are distinguished or better. Others are close.
- He encourages all clubs not to give up the momentum – let’s keep up the momentum. Keep the focus on the needs of your members.

### **Immediate Past District Director Report – Teri McGregor, DTM:**

She began with the quote she ended last report with, “For any movement to gain momentum, it must start with small action.” (Adam Braun)

By doing less, she was accomplishing more. She set 3 goals: earning her DTM, increasing attendance at club officer training and growing her home club’s membership – and found success. This entailed saying no to some requests, leaving opportunities for new leaders.

Our actions resulted in 384 new Toastmasters in District 35, 60 charter members, record attendance at club officer trainings, and the first-ever hybrid speech contest.

“You are only as successful as what you decide to do after today.” – A quote from a work meeting.

### **District Director Report – Jennifer Kibicho, DTM:**

- She shared TI charts showing District 35’s ranking in the region and world. We’re doing well with membership payments. She commends Robert Wall and team for the work they’ve done. We’re number five in our region on one chart; the gap between us and number one is something that can be surmounted. We’ve made progress. We’re in the same position as last year with a smaller base for distinguished clubs.
- She shared accomplishments we can celebrate with added members and education awards achieved. Fifty-seven percent of our area director reports are complete. We need 100% area director reports submitted; we’ll do everything we can in the next four weeks before the deadline of May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Members from 10 countries are represented in District 35. 1,038 are from the US, 10 from Canada, 6 from Kenya and 14 from 7 other countries.
- Fourteen clubs are almost at the distinguished level per a chart she shared. Clubs that are close can help us close the gap. Some need one more member or one more member and one more DCP goal. She’s persuaded that it’s possible for us to get to distinguished.

- The District 35 2022-2025 Strategic Plan is No Member Left Behind, Intentionally Sharing Toastmasters, and Strategic Stewardship. The one that's close to her heart is No Member Left Behind. What can you do?
  - No Member Left Behind: Every member of your club feels celebrated, included and cared for!
  - Intentionally Sharing Toastmasters: Let those around you know how Toastmasters has transformed your life!
  - Strategic Stewardship: Your children and grandchildren have a Toastmasters Club near you!
- She wants our district and our clubs to stay on the map, to get Division B back, and for our children and grandchildren to have a club that meets near them.
- She shared a list of progressive goals to strive for to get new members active in their clubs. We should think about our process for getting a guest to a district director.
- About 68 people helped us celebrate our platinum anniversary this year. She summarized it and thanked those who helped make it happen.
- She shared our commitment:
  - Celebrating our Platinum Year
  - Advancing Together as A Community
    - Every Member
    - Every Club
  - Moving District 35 Forward
- She named and thanked the district leaders.
- “Thank you District 35 for the privilege of serving as your 2022-2023 District Director.”

**Announcements – Jennifer Kibicho:**

- We're still looking for a Toastmaster of the year. The nomination deadline is today at midnight.
- We're also looking for a club president of the year. We have 25 nominations so far. The deadline is midnight today.
- The Spring Conference is taking place April 30 – May 6. Virtual sessions start tomorrow; we can still register for them.
- Spring Conference Service Project: District 35 is partnering with The Sharing Center to collect food for a food pantry about 25 minutes away from Lake Geneva. This is the first time we're doing this. It's an opportunity for our district to give back to the community who's hosting us for the spring conference.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

There is no unfinished or new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Flatoff, VC5, EH4, District Administration Manager

