

Spring Business Meeting – PQD report

Here we are; we have eight weeks until Toastmasters New Year on July 1.

24-25 has seen some successes. We had consistent training events throughout the year; attendance at winter Toastmasters Leadership Institutes was about 60%, just lower than average; summer was average. Our in person contests were generally well attended, and as a bonus almost all of them held after-event get togethers that were very well attended – so after five years of virtual contests, we had in-person gatherings throughout the district. And we had increased participation with the conference this year. All of these are encouraging.

When people join Toastmasters, it's often to practice public speaking, and our tagline is “where leaders are made,” but when you talk to members, very often they indicate that they stay in Toastmasters because of the people they meet. We give supportive, actionable feedback. We support one another to learn leadership skills. We want each other to succeed. And we share through our speeches and our table topics participation. We as Toastmasters make connections with people we may not have even met otherwise. And it's this interpersonal connection that is coming back with increased in-person and extra-meeting gatherings.

Healthy clubs have consistent speeches, new members, and proactive officers. While we are seeing multiple clubs demonstrating success (LIST THEM HERE), many other clubs are missing new members or speeches during meetings. Membership drives, open houses, and community outreach are all ways to bring in members. Farmers markets and parade participation can be free for non profits! And speech tracking is through Pathways. Enter your speeches online. Get credit. Reach out to me if your club doesn't.

Healthy clubs also are strongly encouraged to plan ahead. Next year, clubs must submit a Club Success Plan to be eligible for being distinguished. Some see it as busywork, but really it's an opportunity to problemsolve and think ahead. If this year you didn't encourage people to bring in guests until the last minute, schedule open houses earlier. If you don't have people giving speeches, find people with goals who will commit to a level – that's three to five speeches – in the Toastmasters year. Then write it down.

We have eight weeks until the end of the year. Complete elections. Get speeches entered. Find new members. Get new members oriented. And think of ways to help your club help your members reach their goals. Speakathon? Additional events? Working with other clubs? You have resources. Your area and division directors and I would all love to help brainstorm. Then get your plan ready for online entry on July 1.

We. Have. Eight. Weeks.

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District 35 Program Quality Director 24-25

