



District 35 Spring Business Meeting

IPDD Report - Robert Wall, DTM

There's a sense of finality here today. This is the last business meeting of District 35 - not just for the year, but ever. And with the districts being reorganized, that brings us back to the question - "what IS a district?" When I first joined, I'd hear people in my club griping about the district. "The district did this." "The district won't do that." But as years went by, and I progressed in Toastmasters leadership, I came to a realization. "The district" isn't some group of detached people, hiding off in a secret bunker somewhere issuing proclamations.

The district is us. And the measure of a district isn't in geographical boundaries, but in lives changed. The map will be different, but the mission hasn't changed. This is because the map is incidental, and the members are the mission.

As district leaders, we all memorize the district mission. The district mission is "we build new clubs, and support all clubs in achieving excellence." But let's put that differently for a minute. District leaders help the people that help the members. We are members, helping other members, that serve still other members. This is why, when asked my District Director year what we were going to do now that District 35 was going away. I had a simple answer. I said that now, we were going to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. And after the change, we were going to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

Partially because that's the mission - and the mission to serve members continues. But even more so because that's who we, as members of District 35, are.

We join this organization to learn. If we stay long enough, we learn to lead. And if we lead well, we leave a legacy. A legacy of lives impacted. Lives transformed.

And the results of that learning and leading is the reason we take pride in our district. When we get together, we serve one another. We support one another. We help each other succeed. Even at District Leader Training, we get comments about how District 35 builds one another up and encourages one another. Those are things to be proud of. And since it's not about the map, but the members, it's something we take with us no matter where we go.

As we move into the future, that's my hope for each and every member of District 35. Take it with you. Keep learning. Keep leading. And let's leave our legacy - both now and into the future.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Wall, DTM, Immediate Past District Director

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Communicate Confidently®