

District 6 Toastmasters
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council
Fall Conference
October, 23, 2010

District Governor Stephen Shaner, DTM, called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM.

Inspirational Message was given by Kristine Campbell, DTM

Gretchen Coons, DTM, read the District Mission

Stephen Shaner welcomed everybody and gave introductory remarks.

Credentials Chair, Jim Miller, DTM, announced that there was not a quorum. The numbers required for a quorum were represented as follows:

276 active clubs with 2 votes per club equals 552 Total Votes

1/3 are needed for a quorum = 184 votes required

Club votes accounted for 102

District Officers' votes = 27

Total votes = 129

We were 55 shy of a quorum.

Due to having no quorum, we were only able to report on items, but not able to vote to accept or adopt anything for the duration of the meeting.

The Meeting Standing Rules were presented.

District 6 Secretary, Gretchen Coons, DTM, announced that the minutes from the 2010 Spring Convention had been posted on the D6tm.org web site since the convention, and a hard copy had been on display at the hotel for review. Nobody offered any corrections to the minutes posted.

BJ Olsen, DTM, was appointed as Timer.

Reports

The Report of the Audit Committee was presented by Pat Croal, DTM.

We have taken the following steps:

1. Have put together an audit committee.
2. Have downloaded Audit Committee Guidelines from Toastmasters International.
3. Plan to work with the Treasurer to perform audits in small monthly segments.

Plan to review the budget for this year already approved by Toastmasters International.

Adoption of the District Budget was held off until there was a quorum.

Treasurer's Report was given by Terry Ragan, DTM

There was no posted Treasurer's Report as they are redoing the coding system.

Funds currently are:

Checking: \$23,928.48

Savings: \$26,493.17

TI Fund: \$41,413.61

Total: \$91,835.26

District Governor Stephen Shaner, DTM, gave the following report on how District 6 is doing with the Four Critical Success Factors as follows:

Membership Payments Base: 10723
Membership Payments to Date: 4425
Goal for June 30: 10937
District is behind 6512
Membership is at about 26% and on target

Club Base: 276
Active Clubs to Date: 278
Paid Clubs to Date: 261
Goals for June 30: 284
District is behind: 23

Competent Communicators (CCs) to Date: 100
Goal for June 30: 375
District is behind: 275

Advanced Communicators (ACs) to Date: 68
Goal for June 30: 107
District is behind 39

Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, gave her report regarding Education and Training:

We are guided by the words of Frances Willard in his book, *How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle*:

No matter how one may think himself accomplished, when he sets out to learn a new language, science, or the bicycle, he has entered a new realm as truly as if he were a child newly born into the world.

Toastmasters International's vision is to empower people to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams. When we first step into a Toastmasters club it is new to us. We start on our journeys as a child newly born into the world. It is through the Toastmasters educational program that we find our way.

The good news is, as of Thursday October 14 we have 245 educational awards submitted at TI. The bad news is.....well.....there is no bad news. There is however, an opportunity.

Mr. District Governor, my fellow Toastmasters every person in your club should be working on an educational award at all times, even if they have already earned a DTM (Distinguished Toastmasters Award). Learning does not end when we achieve a goal. It is at that time that we must pick up a new endeavor, or re-work an old in an effort to stay polished and keep ourselves excited.

When a child is newly brought into the world, the world is exciting. After a while we grow and the learning slows down. I implore to you find a new realm within the Toastmaster program that challenges you and lets you dig deeper into yourself and improve your art of speaking, listening, and thinking – those vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, Dru Jorgensen, DTM provided the following report:

Mr. District Governor, Fellow Toastmasters –

Well ya got Trouble my friend, right here in river city. Trouble spelled with a capital C. C is for Club. Now, friends let me tell you what I mean... We've been fritterin away ... working day and night building clubs for the district.

Progress to date:

- Toastmasters to the Max in Chaska
- Stagecoach Speakers – Eagan
- Stagecoach Speakers – Spectrum – Thanks to Jacquie's support, paperwork was mailed on Friday to Toastmasters International.
- Fluid Speakers in Eaton – regaining momentum to grow to charter strength. It's amazing how a person's yearly review impacts a club. Momentum gained because a few folks had on their development plan they would start new club and attain their Competent Communicator. This club has been in the works for 3 years.

I would like to extend a special thanks to our members, club officers, area and division governors, as they are stepping up to increase membership, find club leads and start up new clubs.

Public Relations Officer, Lisa Jenks, ACS, ALB provided the following:

Exciting things are underway in the arena of public relations.

We kicked off the 2010-2011 Toastmasters Year with a bang – taking 275 Toastmasters and their friends and families to a Twins game – and we helped cheer the Twins to their first ever walk off win at beautiful Target field. Our orange shirts made an impression and many orange clad Toastmasters reported opportunities to provide testimonials at the game and even on the light rail ride home. Anyone interested in undertaking this endeavor in 2011 as a High Performance Leadership Project can contact me for further information. The Twins should be contacted in November.

In August, a PR Intensive Officer Training event was held at the Brookdale Library. Significant focus was made to club websites, the most valuable PR tool available to clubs, other than its members. It is my hope to offer this program again, and perhaps to take it on the road.

I have been made aware of several proclamations of Toastmasters month this October. The mayors of Mankato, Prior Lake and Hutchinson have all issued such proclamations. Excellent work by clubs in those cities. We are proud of what Toastmasters brings to the lives of its members and it is wonderful to have that contribution recognized in this way.

It is time for clubs to focus on their entries to this year's PR contests – press releases, guest packets, newsletters, brochures and flyers, websites, and, new this year, blogs and social media. The deadline for submissions will be April 1, 2011 – no foolin'! We look forward to many entries this year, as there is a wealth of creativity worthy of recognition!

There are many other ideas in the works, and volunteers will be sought to help spread the word about Toastmasters and the myriad of fabulous clubs in District 6. Stay tuned for more information!

The Division Governors gave their reports:

Central Division – Ryan Hove, DTM

All the Central Division Areas had successful contests as did the Central Division. I am pleased with how well the Area Governors are working together and are responding to me at their Division Governor.

Three clubs are outstanding on submitting their October dues and the Area Governors are working with those Clubs.

One club has yet to submit their officer list. The Club President reported that it was submitted to TI, but has not been recorded yet.

We are having our next Division Counsel meeting on Monday evening to discuss what has worked well in the past few months and what can be improved upon in the remaining meetings.

The Central Division will begin providing officer training in December as a group.

The Spring Contest for the Central Division has been set for April 5, 2011 at Toro in Bloomington.

For Educational Awards:

CCs 8
ACs 3

The Club Visits are expected to be completed by Oct 31st.

Eastern Division – Larry Marik, ACS, ALB

Eastern Division is the place to be, especially when Larry's on the M.I.C.

For this Division, we had some fun. Officers trained, we had 161.

Clubs with four or more officers trained, 97 percent of clubs is what we obtained.

The clubs with a perfect seven, let's put this in the mix the number of clubs we had, it totaled the number 6.

Moving on to new members, we are going to have to delve, including charter members, we are up to 112.

For education awards that we haven't foreseen, the numbers of CCs, what we have is 15.

For the number of ACs can it be, we are currently at 12 as your can plainly see.

Now, I know you are asking what else did we do, well CLs are at 7 and our DTMs at 2.

For one of our clubs, we had a large membership shrinkage, because all the members moved to the newly renamed Burlington Heritage.

Another club did a rename in memory of someone cool. As you heard earlier, the club's new name is Colleen Morse Golden Rule!

We also had to say goodbye Lafayette Park, but we gained a new club so that's definitely a start.

For this new club, they are some real seekers, as the name of this new club it is the Stage Coach Speakers (Eagan).

Another club that is in the works, Stage Coach Speakers Spectrom is working out the quirks.

As far as this report, I am not going to sing. But if you want to hear so more, you'll have to wait 'til Spring!

Frontier Division – Margaret Brunner, DTM

The Area Governors of the Fabulous Frontier Division laid the foundation for a fruitful fun filled fabulous year. Several officer training events offered and their Attitude of service came through as they went to the clubs to offer training. Their efforts were fruitful in training over 70 % of the club officers in Frontier Division and 85% of the clubs having 4 or more officers trained. They are also foraying into the clubs with their visits of support, knowledge and attitude of service. Those reports are still incoming.

Unfortunately we may be losing one club, McKToast.

The club members are growing not only in numbers but in education and communication awards. So far 10 CC's, 8 AC's, 9CL or advanced Leader awards including a DTM have been awarded. It is fascinating to know that 36 new members (so far) are experiencing the communication and leadership building skills that Toastmasters has to offer in the supportive environment facilitated by their favorite Frontier Division club. Speech craft and Youth Leadership programs are flourishing in our division.

It is my pleasure to work with this fabulous group of Area Governors

Area 21	Michelle Lentz ACB, ALB
Area 22	Ron Twite ACB, CL
Area 23	David Nelsen CTM
Area 24	Amy Schmidt CC
Area 25	Theresa Heyer ATMG, ALB
Area 26	Colleen Malmgren CC, CL

And the clubs and club members that we all serve. One word sums them up....Awesome!

International Division – Peggy Welter, ACB, CL – report given by Jean Mirowski

First and foremost, Peggy apologizes for not being in attendance. The stars were aligned against her for being able to make it this weekend.

International Division is geared up to have a better second half than its first. Our true International Area (Area 32) completed all club visits and reports first – nice job Canada! Area 34 has completed all visits and is working on the last of the reports and all club visits are scheduled in Area 31 and will have reports in by November 30.

We currently have:

3 CCs
2 ACs
5 CLs, ALs, DTMs
24 new members

The “Area To-Do” reports have been shared with all the Area Governors. We’re continuing to clean up club dues and getting ready for the second round of officer training.

The Area Governors have been working hard and their hard work is appreciated. We’re all looking forward to a great second half of the Toastmasters year.

Metro Division – Jill Nauman, ACB, ALB

Metro Division is on the march towards distinguished status! Mighty Metro Division is made up of 33 clubs that meet in or around downtown Minneapolis. My team of seven magnificent Area Governors has been busy visiting clubs, training officers, and working with their clubs on the Fall Area Speech Contests.

- So far, Metro Division has earned 14 CCs, 2 ACBs, 1 ACS, 1 ACG, 4 CLs, 1 ALB, and 1 DTM.
- Metro Division had 137 Officers trained during June-August,
- The Metro clubs have increased our club membership with 72 new Toastmasters.
- We are working on coaching and improving some of our existing clubs. A few clubs are considering hosting Speech Craft. One club, Thriftbuilders is hosting a monthly Toastmasters skyway table to help spread the word about Toastmasters and recruit new members. They invite other clubs to help man the booth.
- We have a number of low membership clubs which are looking for Club Coaches. If you have some time available to help one of our clubs, let me or Brian Hinton – the Club Coach Chair know.

Northern Division – Mike Orr, ACG

A theme for this year's Northern Division will be "no hibernation," an effort to get Toastmasters up and out of their clubs. Our area governor team, now having familiarity with their individual clubs, will really be instrumental in finding and identifying the "bears" in the division.

A special thanks to Barbara LaBorde, area 54 governor, who started an outstanding term as AG and worked closely with Kristine Campbell as an outstanding example of two AGs successfully working well together. Thank you to BJ Olsen for carrying 54 onward, continuing Barbara's term. Patrice Hassing is working with AC Earlyrisers for an aggressive goal of chartering by Dec 1st. District members are encouraged to help out, if able.

Going forward, we'll be focusing on the numbers and reports more than ever, further building our relationships and club connections, identifying our future leaders, and leading the division forward to continued success.

Honor goes out to Northern Division speech contestant Craig Carver, who took first last night in Table Topics and a year ago in Evaluation.

Continued recognition goes out to my outstanding area governor team: Kristine Campbell, BJ Olsen, Brian Rice, Mark Olson, Patrice Hassing, and Steve Mindrum.

Prairie Division – Kim Windingland, ACG

The Prairie Division is the “Division of Choice” for The Elusive Gilded Gavel. As of today, it spent over 42% of its time this year roaming the Prairie. It started the year in the Western Division. Then it had a long stay in the Prairie visiting Hutchinson II, Daylighters, and Smooth Talkers. During the summer, it spent a little over a month in Northern...while the weather is warm. Currently, The Elusive Gilded Gavel is having a great time visiting Spartan Speakers Wenell in Central. I heard rumors that it will be home soon in the Prairie...unless the Southern Division convinces it to snowbird it for the winter.

Area 62 is pregnant! There is a new club chartering in Remer, MN. My hat off to Rich Anderson and his team!

With an awesome team of Area Governors, expect big things from the Prairie! Thank you Area Governors for having an Attitude of Service – Area 61 Daree Selby, Area 62 Char Hoopela, Area 63 Helen Grothe, Area 64 Kay Desmith, and Area 65 Marci Petersen.

Rivers Division – Sharon Rollefson, DTM

Mr. District Governor, Fellow Officers and Toastmasters,

Rivers Division has embraced the theme this year “an Attitude of Service.”

First Round Training is complete and Rivers Division had 2 Area Governors, Area 75 & Area 76 where all 7 officers were trained in ALL OF THE CLUBS IN Those AREAS!

We are aware that numbers are important. However the people behind those numbers are REALLY what is important. Each officer trained will take back to their home club a new level of confidence and leadership.

All of our Active Clubs have paid their dues and are currently working on their Education Awards.

We had fun Contests where we all got together and laughed, after all it was a Humorous Contest. This was a valuable learning curve for most of Rivers Division Area Governors. A comment I heard often was, “I never knew it was so much work!”

Membership has become a recent focus with many clubs holding Open Houses to draw visitors and potential Toastmasters.

Last week at our Division Council meeting, the Area Governors gathered around the table to share their experiences.

They asked one another for suggestions on “how to help struggling clubs to succeed”? They shared what is working and what isn’t working.

As they sat there with their heads together I could literally see their strength as they looked for ways to help one another.

It was not all serious strategy either, their laughter and happy energy kept bubbling to the surface.

Last Saturday I was visited a club, when the Toastmaster, ended their meeting with the following **Quote from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.**

“Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is.

Treat a man as he can and should be, and

He will become as he can and should be.”

Powerful words, but more importantly it expresses the values, our clubs are placing on the individual Toastmaster

It is no coincidence that the Rivers Division Team that has been assembled this year, is working together in *An Attitude of Service.*

Southern Division – Ann Maxfield, DTM

Southern division celebrated recently with five great area contests and a rollicking division contest. All contests were fantastic and the area governors showed their true colors in the great organization and results.

Currently, two areas are exploring the possibilities of new clubs. Both look like great possibilities. We will keep you updated as we move further in the process.

Our division continued the strong club coaching policies from last year. We have three clubs right now with coaches; Speakers of the House, Rochester Suburban, and Plain-ly Speaking. We have a fourth club that has requested coaching and we are working on finding them a coach.

Every one of southern division's club's had their dues in before the deadline. This is thanks to the strong area governors and to the strong club presidents and treasurers. Well done everyone!

Within the division, to date, 18 clubs have membership increases from their base number.

Individual toastmasters and their strong desire to better themselves is what southern division is all about. In each and every area, these strong, goal setting toastmasters have achieved many, many educational achievements already this year. As of October 14, the division has the following:

- 9 CC's
- 16 AC's (3 areas have already exceeded their annual goal!!)
- 4 DTM's

Four of the toastmasters within southern division have already achieved three or more educational awards. These toastmasters include Serena Huang, Unni Krishnan, Ann Maxfield, and Fred Domnick with 5!

Western Division – Jane Rischmiller, DTM

The Western Division has 7 Area's with a total of 37 clubs and starting out with 748 Toastmaster Members. One new club, Toastmasters to the Max, has chartered in August and two new clubs are actively working on chartering this year.

Toastmaster Members have been very active in working their DCP plan. The Western Division has 8 Competent Communicators, 8 Advanced Competent Communicators and 8 Competent Leadership awards. We have 75 new members within our Area's. 181 officers were trained and 35 clubs have their dues paid. The Area Governor's are continuing to make their club visits with 24 club visits recorded at TI.

Area 91 Governor, Vicky Nann, reported that all clubs have their dues paid and that a minimum of 4 club officers trained per club.

Area 92 Governor, Bob Dummer, Area Club visits are being conducted, club officers have been trained, and all clubs have their dues in.

Area 93 Governor, Nancy Knoth, reported that all of her club visits have been done and all clubs have their dues paid. Two clubs have all 7 officers trained.

Area 94 Governor, Myrtle Turnquist, reports that both winners for the Table Topics and Humorous speech contest for the Western Division was won by a member out of Area 94.

Area 95 Governor, Marvel Kummer, reported that all of her club visits have been done and all clubs have their dues paid.

Area 96 Governor, Joe Brauer, Area Club visits are being conducted, club officers have been trained, and dues are in.

Area 97 Governor, Shannen Clark, reported that one club, Midday Mumbler, has already achieved the status of being Distinguished, all club visits are done and all dues paid.

The Western Division continues to be AWESOME and looking forward to the second half of the year!

International Director Jacquie Schnider, DTM spoke:

She thanked District 6 for having her. This is the 3rd time to District 6 in the last few years.

District 6 is a part of Region 4.

International Director Theo Black, DTM is going to be a Special Representative to Region 11, which potentially includes Dubai.

Theo and Jacquie are on the Digital Transition committee and want to know what we, as members, want. They are looking five years ahead. What do we want for TM? Where do we want to go digitally?

New Business

District 6 Governor Stephen Shaner, DTM asked if there were any announcements regarding nominations for Candidacy for the 2011-2012 Toastmaster year

Catherine Cardenuto announced her bid for District 6 Governor

Dru Jorgenson announced her running for LGET

Patrice Hassing announced her running for Northern Division Governor

The District 6 Spring Convention will be April 29 and 30, 2011. It will be at what is currently the Ramada in Plymouth, but is being renamed to Crown Plaza

The International Convention will be August 17 – 20, 2011 in Las Vegas

Mary Torno announced the City of White Bear Lake gave proclamations for Toatmasters month to a couple of clubs there.

It was also announced that the Mayor of Cloquet also provided a Toastmasters proclamation.

Catherine's Comments were provided by Catherine Cardenuto to inform us of upcoming events at this convention.

Meeting was Adjourned at 2:50