

District 6 Toastmasters
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council
Fall Conference
October 24, 2009

District Governor Allan Bernard called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

Inspirational Opening was given by Sarah Bateman, DTM.

Cathi Droz, ACG, AL, read the District Mission.

District Governor Allan Bernard welcomed everyone and gave introductory remarks.

The Meeting Standing Rules were presented by Allan Bernard and adopted as presented.

District Governor Allan Bernard presented the Adoption of the Agenda. The Agenda was adopted as printed.

There was a Point of Order. The Credentials Report should have been presented first.

Mary Swanson, DTM, presented the Credentials Report, as follows:

283 active clubs (per Toastmasters International website on October 23, 2009)

2 votes per club

566 Total club votes possible

Quorum = 1/3 of total club votes = 188 votes

Club votes present = 119 out of 566 possible

A Quorum was not met.

Additionally, there were 20 District Officer votes out of 74 possible.

Total number of possible votes present: 139 out of 640 possible votes.

The Credentials Report was adopted as read.

Teresa Fehn, DTM, was appointed by District Governor Allan Bernard to serve as Teller for the meeting.
BJ Olsen, DTM, was appointed as the Timer.

Cathi Droz announced that Minutes of the Spring District Council had been posted during the Conference. Governor Allan Bernard called for any corrections or additions. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as posted.

Duane Rivard presented the Report of the Audit Committee. The Audit Report was approved as read.

Terry Ragan, DTM, announced that the District Budget had been posted during the Conference. The budget was approved as posted. Terry Ragan also reported that the budget was submitted to TMI on time by the end of July.

Terry Ragan, DTM, announced that the Treasurer's Report had been posted during the Conference. He announced that copies are also available. The Report was approved as posted.

Officer Reports:

District Governor – Allan Bernard, DTM

The District Governor stated that statistics from the year-to-date are posted on the District 6 Website. He emphasized that the District is fortunate to have the Leadership Team that he has, and that the team has worked together well.

Stephen Shaner, DTM – Lt. Governor Education and Training

Reported the following:

- We had a great first round of officer training with a record number of clubs with 7 officers trained and with a record number of clubs with 4 or more officers trained.
- Craig valentine will be our guest at the February TELI.
- We are at 30% of our CC goal and at 45% of our AC goal.

Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM – Lt. Governor Marketing

Reported the following:

"Look at a stone cutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before." Jacob A Riis (journalist)

Like the stone cutter we have been hammering away at the rock all across the district. Kathy Neumiller, DTM, our club coach trainer, has been working very hard and we have over 26 club coaches assigned this year.

There are new clubs being worked on all around the district. We have had an Application to Organize come from International Falls and another one on the way from Center City Minneapolis. We are still looking for leads and offering a batch of cookies for any person who brings a lead forward and it charters before June 30, 2009.

I am confident that by working together we will split that rock. I thank you for your help so far this year and thank you for the work to come.

Jerud Colbert, ACS, ALB – Public Relations Officer, was absent.

Division Governor Reports:

Sarah Bateman, DTM, Central Division Governor reported:

Central Division is being served by a dedicated and creative team of Area Governors. They are leading their areas to become distinguished. They are winding up their club visits and submitting the reports. They have trained 112 club officers. They have held challenging speech contests. The club officers and members are also stretching to become distinguished.

So far Central Division has earned:

9 Competent Communicators

3 Advanced Communicators Bronze

3 Advanced Communicators Silver

1 Advanced Communicator Gold

1 Distinguished Toastmaster

3 Competent Leaders

1 Advanced Leader Bronze

Four clubs are Magnificent Seven Clubs:

Crest o'the Hill 981

Realtors 2512

Spartan Speaker Wenell 2376

Uncle Wyatt's 1148602

Eastern Division Governor, Colleen Morse, DTM, was absent. Larry Marik, CC, CL, reported for Eastern Division:

- 50 new members
- 389 October renewals
- 2 late renewals
- 10 CC's
- 6 AC's
- just finishing up all the area governor club visits
- now preparing for 2nd round of Officer Training
- starting a membership campaign for Eastern Division

- working on leads for new clubs
- working the State Fair leads

Frontier Division Governor, Julia Schlack, ACS, was absent. Lisa Burnside, CC, reported for Frontier Division:

At the start of the Toastmaster year, we were short one Area Governor. Frontier Division thanks Dan Grundtner for stepping up and filling in that role. All club and Area contests were conducted. The Frontier Division contest was almost rained out; however, we only started a little late and ended up with two wonderful contestants that were sent onto the District 6 contests. We had many Magnificent Sevens for officer training and the majority of other clubs had at least 4 officers trained. The majority of clubs had their dues in on time.

The current challenge is for the clubs that are losing members due to layoffs or companies no longer paying the fees or supporting the membership. We are working with the clubs to make sure they are aware of the many benefits of Toastmasters even if their companies are pulling up sponsorships. Some additional club coaches have been requested, but with the shortage of coaches, the Area and Division will step up to assist those clubs to the best of our abilities.

Nancy Shaner, ACS, CL – International Division Governor reported:

The International Division is strong and moving forward. We now have 4 Areas: 31, 32, 33, and 34. The Area Governor leadership is comprised of both novice and seasoned Toastmasters. Area 31 Governor is Elizabeth Simonson; Area 32-Joceline Larouche-Matson; Area 33-Henry Korpela and Area 34 Governor is Peggy Welter. They are each working hard to serve the needs of their clubs and members.

The International Division has not lost a single club, in fact, we will be gaining a new club in Area 34. We are also in discussion with the Special Olympics Duluth about starting a new club in the area. Every club in the Division has paid its dues. Officer training went well, with a number of Magnificent 7 achievements. International Division is proud to serve in distinguished District 6. We look forward to continued growth while strengthening and nourishing existing clubs—the perfect recipe for a healthy, happy Division!

Kathy Elkin, ACS, ALB – Metro Division Governor was absent. Jill Nauman, CC, CL, reported:

- Metro Division had 141 Officers trained during June-August, 15 of our clubs were Magnificent 7!
- Metro is working on some new club leads however we have not chartered any yet.
- The Metro clubs have increased our club membership with 57 new Toastmasters.
- We are working on adding new clubs, coaching and improving some of our existing clubs and expanding our youth leadership network to include Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center and MACC Youth Leadership Development.

Brian Rice, DTM – Northern Division Governor reported:

- Hosted Ed Tate in July for a “Happy Hour” Seminar

- Gained 51 new members
- Added 12 CC's and 14 AC's educational awards
- 32 out of 34 clubs have 4 or more officers trained
- 15 out of 34 clubs have 7 of 7 officers trained
- All but two (2) clubs have been visited by their Area Governor
- Has a wonderful group of evaluators as evidenced by Fall Conference Evaluation Contest winner Craig Carver, Area 53 member.

Diane Windingland, DTM – Prairie Division Governor reported:

The Prairie Dogs are barking about Toastmasters in Prairie Division!

Although there has not been much net membership growth, there are 34 new Toastmasters in the Division, with the smallest area having the greatest growth. Area 61, the underdog in the Prairie Division with only 27 members in 3 clubs, added 10 members so far this year! During officer training 16 out of 21 clubs had 4 or more officers trained, 2 of them--Hugo Toastmasters and Daylighters—achieving Magnificent 7.

For the second half of the year, membership growth is the biggest opportunity as more than half of the Division clubs are low membership. Kay Slama will be working with low member clubs in the Division to provide them resources. There is a great need for club coaches.

Area 63 Governor, Kim Windingland is excited about plans for a new club in the Albertville area. A demo meeting is planned for November 18. I'm looking forward to having a new Prairie Dog Pup in Prairie Division!

Faye Hefferle, ATMS, ALB – Rivers Division Governor reported:

Rivers Division is Rockin' so far this year.

1) First round of Officers Training

Very well done by the Area Governors!

Rivers Division beat the average for the district in all areas!

	District 6	Rivers
Clubs with 0 officers trained	10%	0%
All seven officers trained:	33%	44%
Total officers trained:	70%	80%
At least four officers trained:	81%	89%

2) New Members

Some clubs have lost members, but we have gained 47 new members since 7/1

3) Educational Awards

37 educational awards achieved since July 1st

- 17 are CC's
- some of every award

4) Club Status

Most clubs are in pretty rock-solid shape

Two clubs have coaches

We're looking for coaches for two clubs

5) Areas

I am very proud of my six terrific area governors who have worked hard to complete club visits and support their clubs.

6) Plans for second half of year

Keep on Rockin'

We just found a pebble this morning – a possible new club lead! Our Rock will split this year – we plan to add at least one new club!

Linda Larson, DTM – Southern Division Governor reported the following:

What's Shakin' in Southern Division?

25 Clubs (described geographic location of the Division)

Distinguished Division Plan:

- I. Support MEMBERS to achieve their personal goals.
 - A. DTM: Allan Lentz of Mayo Hi-Nooners. First DTM this year.
 - B. To date: 12 CCs (30% of annual goal), 4 ACs, (40% of annual goal), 4 ALs, & 6 CLs.
- II. Support & strengthen existing CLUBS.
 - A. All but 2 Club visits are complete.

- B. 7 Club Coaches & 1 more in the hopper.
- C. My pledge: There will be NO CLUBS LOST in Southern Division this year.
- D. 100% of Clubs trained at least 4 officers. (10 Clubs trained all 7.)
- E. 35 new members on record, to date.

III. Prospect for NEW CLUBS.

- A. 3 prospects to date: Mayo teaching program (through Unni), Indian community (also through Unni), & Taylor Corp in Mankato (through me).
- B. Many more ideas in the hopper.

IV. Support AREA GOVERNORS to reach their goals-- all are working towards DTM.

V. What Else?

- A. Youth Leadership currently underway with 17 participants.
- B. 3 Speechcraft programs currently going on.
- C. November 13th-- Southern Division Club Coaches Conference in Rochester, preceding Southern Division Council meeting.
- D. January 23rd-- plans are underway for Southern MN TELI in Rochester.

In conclusion, Mr. District Governor, in Southern Division, we are Daring To Be Distinguished!

David Deutsch, DTM – Western Division Governor reported:

The Wild Western Division has awesome Area Governors who are doing a fantastic job, including two who continued on from last year: Jane Rischmiller (Area 93) and Christine Voss (Area 96). Collectively, 32 out of 36 clubs had 4+ officers trained, including 10 of which had all 7 trained. (That is 186 officers trained.)

Two new clubs started at the end of June in Area 94: United We Toast under the excellent leadership of Cathy Sever, and Crosstown Talkers (which is a club split off from Cargill club) under the leadership of Lionel Gordon.

In terms of new members, we have 64 to date including 5 Midday Mumbler's, 5 in Speakers After Hours, 6 in Crosstown Talkers, and 8 in Brave Hearts.

We intend to lasso at least 3 new clubs in Western Division. New clubs that we see on the horizon include starting a new club at a company called Eaton, which is where our Area 97 Governor Jennifer Huffman works. Through serendipity I met a woman from a company called EV3 in the Twin Cities who is looking to start a club there. Both of these clubs aspire to have demo meetings in January. In addition, Cargill Trademasters in Area 94 has 71 members and is a candidate to be split. Just last evening I received some initial inquiries from Cub Foods in Stillwater about starting a club: we will continue to work that lead.

The Wild Western Division is Wild about having 13 Competent Communicators awarded with 6 being in Area 96 alone. Beyond that, two Advanced Communicator Bronze awards have been achieved. On the leadership side, two Competent Leaders awards have been given.

This concludes the report from Western Division.

Committee Reports:

Gretchen Coons, DTM – Co-chair for the Spring Convention 2010 - announced the Convention dates as April 23rd and 24th. Location is the former 4 Points Sheraton Inn, now known as Ramada Plaza, on Industrial Blvd and 35W in Minneapolis. Arlene Gallegos is the other Co-chair. Gretchen invited us to “come, learn and have fun.”

Gretchen announced that volunteers are still needed: Greeters, Decorations, Registration. She announced that Central Division has volunteered to run the Silent Auction. Eastern Division has volunteered to organize Friday Fun Night. The theme is “Reach for the Stars.”

New Business:

Henry Korpela, DTM, announced Peggy Welter, CC, as candidate for International Division Governor.

It was ruled out of order as it is an announcement.

No new business.

Announcements:

Stephen Shaner, DTM, announced his candidacy for District Governor in 2010-2011.

Catherine Rai Cardenuto, DTM, announced her candidacy for Lt. Governor Education and Training.

Dru Jorgensen, ACB, ALB, announced her candidacy for Lt. Governor Marketing.

Margaret Brunner, DTM, announced her candidacy for Frontier Division Governor.

Larry Marik, CC, CL, announced his candidacy for Eastern Division Governor.

Kim Windingland, ACB, ALB, announced his candidacy for Prairie Division Governor.

Mary Torno, DTM, announced that the club Los Lagos has six (6) members. She invited TM members to attend this Spanish-speaking club.

Keith Hardy, DTM – Toastmaster of the Year Chair reported that in choosing the TM of the Year, think of it as selecting your Toastmaster Idol. It is parallel because it is regular people getting recognized for doing something very well. His goal is 100% response from clubs. Last year there was 60% of clubs voting.

Keith reported that he plans to use the District Website for rewards, and also present a recognition award to the winner, such as is done at Spring Convention. At this time, he is not sure it is affordable.

Henry Korpela repeated his announcement regarding Peggy Welter as candidate for International Division Governor for 2010-2011.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2010 Ramada Plaza, Minneapolis

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathi Droz, ACG, ALB

District 6 Secretary