

District 6 Toastmasters
Semi-Annual Meeting of the District Council
Spring Convention
April 24, 2010

District Governor Allan Bernard, DTM, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Inspirational Opening was given by Nancy Shaner, ACS, CL.

Teresa Fehn, DTM, read the District Mission.

District Governor Allan Bernard welcomed everyone and gave introductory remarks.

There was a correction to the agenda: it should have read 2009 Fall Conference, not 2010. The International Convention is also 2010, not 2009.

Point of order. Credentials report was to have come first to establish whether we had a quorum.

Credentials Chair, Mary Swanson, DTM, announced that there was a quorum represented, as follows:

279 active clubs with 2 votes per club

Equals 558 total votes

1/3 are needed for a quorum = 186 votes required

Club votes accounted for = 198

District officers' votes = 35

Total Votes = 233

Mary Swanson moved that the agenda be adopted as amended. It was seconded and motion carried.

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

District Secretary Cathi Droz, ACG, ALB, announced that the minutes from 2009 had been posted for review. Voting on approval of the minutes was done separately. The 2009 Spring Convention minutes were approved as posted. The 2009 Fall Conference Minutes were approved as posted.

BJ Olsen, DTM, was appointed as Timer.

Teresa Fehn was appointed as Teller.

Kelly Taschler, DTM, presented the Adoption of the Realignment of Clubs. Allan Bernard called for any amendments to the realignment report. Kim Windingland moved that St. Cloud VA TM move to Area 62. Motion carried. Kim W. moved that Creative Memories club move to Area 62. Motion carried. Kim W. moved that Paul Bunyan club move to Area 63. Motion did not carry. Kim W. moved that Albertville club remain in Area 63. Motion carried.

Sharon Rollefson moved that Eagan Communicators be moved from Area 76 to Area 75. Motion carried.

It was moved that Simply Spoken club move from Area 26 to Area 24. Motion carried.

It was moved that McToast club move from Area 23 to Area 22. Motion carried.

Andrew Schlack moved that Word Leaders club move from Area 15 to Area 25. Motion carried.

Kent Hawks, ATMB, and Jeff Lee, President of HGA Tech Talkers, moved that HGA Speakeasies club move from Area 44 to Area 46 with Tech Talkers, resulting in Area 44's having 4 clubs and Area 46's having 5 clubs. Motion carried.

It was proposed that Eye Openers be reinstated in Area 5 because they have paid dues. Allan Bernard acknowledged the reinstatement.

Sarah Bateman, DTM, also announced as Central Division Governor that Eye Openers had paid dues.

Len Langkau, CC, CL, in Joan Watson's absence, presented the Nominating Committee Report.

2010 District 6 Nominating Committee:

Committee Chair

Joan Watson, Immediate Past District Governor

Committee Members

Laura Hutt, Brian Hinton, Arlene Gallegos, Len Langkau, MaryJane Hommes, Jill Nauman, Nancy Shaner, Kara Johnson, Duane Rivard, Ed Sodergren

The following Toastmasters are hereby qualified to serve as a District Officer and have met with the nominating committee. We hereby place these candidates into Nomination for the 2010-2011 District 6 Position noted to the left of their name.

District Governor –	Stephen Shaner
Lt. Governor Education & Training –	Catherine Rai-Cardenuto
Lt. Governor Marketing –	Dru Jorgensen
	Kathy Neumiller
Central Division Governor –	Ryan Hove
Eastern Division Governor –	Larry Marik
Frontier Division Governor –	Margaret Brunner

International Division Governor –	Peggy Welter
Metro Division Governor –	Jill Nauman
Northern Division Governor –	Michael Orr
Prairie Division Governor –	Kim Windingland
Rivers Division Governor –	Sharon Rollefson
Southern Division Governor –	Ann Maxfield
Western Division Governor –	Jane Rischsmiller

Allan Bernard called for nominations from the floor. There were none. Uncontested candidates' positions were voted in.

Candidates for Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, Dru Jorgensen and Kathy Neumiller, gave 2-minute candidate speeches. Voting was held and ballots were collected by the Teller, Teresa Fehn, Mary Swanson, and Associate Tellers, Lesa Kennedy and Lucy Burger.

Dru Jorgensen was elected Lieutenant Governor of Marketing for 2010-2011 by a vote of 157 to 82.

The Audit Committee Report was presented by Pat Croal, DTM. It was approved as posted.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Terry Regan, DTM. It had been posted and is filed and was approved subject to audit.

Officer Reports:

District Governor Allan Bernard reported Critical Success Factor Progress as follows:

Clubs: 258/291 87% of goal

Members: 9530/11120: 86% of goal

ACs: 146/109 140% of goal

CCs: 303/381 79% of goal

Your district 6 team has worked hard to support our clubs. Area governors have solicited letters of support from CEOs and vice presidents of human resources supporting participation in toastmasters. We have 28 active club coaches working with club officers to grow membership.

Lieutenant Governor Education and Training, Stephen Shaner, DTM, reported as follows:

We had some fabulous Educational Sessions today. Please give our presenters another round of applause. We have a TELI coming up in July and will need presenters. Please consider filling out an application to give a presentation. The Application will be posted on the District website by mid May.

We had a very good year for Officer Training. We awarded 40 Magnificent 7 Awards this morning for clubs that had all 7 officers trained in both rounds. To all the officers who were trained and to those who

trained them, great job! Trained Officers equals successful clubs. I look forward to our next round of officer training which starts on June 1.

For the two educational related Critical Success Factors, we are doing very well. As a District, we need to submit 381 Competent Communication Awards. We are at 313, or 82%. We need 68.

The other goal is to submit 109 Advanced Communication Awards. We are at 150, which is 138%.

Congratulations to all of you for your educational accomplishments this year and keep doing those manual speeches.

Lieutenant Governor Marketing, Catherine Rai Cardenuto, reported as follows:

"Do not let your fire go out, spark by irreplaceable spark. In the hopeless swamps of the not quite, the not yet, and the not at all, do not let the hero in your soul perish and leave only frustration for the life you deserved, but never have been able to reach. The world you desire can be won, it exists, it is real, it is possible, it is yours." These words by Russian-America Novelist, Ayn Rand remind me that as a member of Toastmasters it is our responsibility to be mutually supportive of each other and to create a positive environment so that we can all feel free to learn and grow.

By the looks of the dance floor last night, that is exactly what I see happening for District 6.

As we venture on this road called self-improvement, the journey is not always easy. We sometimes feel that we will never achieve what we set out to accomplish. I am here today to tell you that that world I desire for District 6 can be won. It exists, it is real, it is possible and it is ours. If not today, then in the days to come.

I take a moment today to acknowledge our District Governor, Allan Bernard, our Lt Governor of Education & Training, Stephen Shaner, our ten Division Governors, our 58 Area Governors, our 27 club coaches and the more than 300 people throughout District 6 who have played a role in the expansion of our network.

Continue to keep your fire burning and together we will get there.

Lisa Jenks, Public Relations Officer, reported as follows:

It has been a great year. The efforts I have witnessed – you promoting Toastmasters and your clubs – has been fantastic! This morning we presented awards for the best websites, best newsletters, best brochures and flyers, and best guest packets. It was a difficult selection process from among great candidates.

But I know there are many great public relations materials that were not even submitted.

It is my hope that many more of you will not only create distinguished public relations materials, and that you will inundate me with entries into the PR Contests next year!

PR contests will expand next year to include blogs and social media. This is an underutilized and fast-growing tool with limitless possibilities for promoting your club! Many clubs have added group or fan pages on Facebook, for example, not only to reach their own membership, but also to share the message with those not familiar with Toastmasters.

I also hope to work with our website team to create a repository of public relations materials so that we can share our best ideas and thereby become more successful in attracting visitors and new members to our clubs. "Never be afraid to borrow a good idea!"

Finally, I would like to announce two upcoming PR events – first, and most dear to my own heart – is "Toastmasters at the Twins game." We have 400 tickets reserved for the Sunday, July 18th game against the Chicago White Sox - outdoors at Target Field! We will wear t-shirts to promote Toastmasters and to stand out as a group. If you have ideas for a t-shirt design, please submit it to me for a chance to win a free t-shirt and a pair of tickets to the game.

Second, I am working to develop a half-day PR intensive for the upcoming officer training season. This promises to be a great chance to share and gather ideas! Watch for more on the District website. If all goes well, this show may go on the road.

I look forward to learning from, sharing with and assisting all of you and your clubs in the coming year as your Public Relations Officer.

The Division Governors presented their reports:

Central Division – Sarah Bateman, DTM, reported:

Central Division has had an exhilarating and challenging year. We have been supported by a team of dedicated and committed Area Governors. They have worked hard throughout the year to serve the clubs through visits, speech contests and special events.

Central Division has been strong in earning educational awards.

- 26 Competent Communicators
- 11 Advanced Communicator Bronzes
- 7 Advanced Communicator Silvers
- 2 Advanced Communicator Golds
- 2 Distinguished Toastmasters

Central Division has trained 109 officers in the second round of officer training. Three clubs have earned the Magnificent Seven ribbons.

Crest O'the Hill

Realtors 2512

Spartan Speakers Wenell

Central Division has sought new members throughout the year. Three clubs have attracted more than 10 new members.

Federal United Professionals 1036751 – 11 new members

Tech Masters 1286458 – 15 new members

Tag Talk Toastmasters 6540 – 19 new members

So far this year Central Division has 4 Distinguished Clubs and 1 Select Distinguished Club.

Eastern Division Governor Colleen Morse was absent. Area 14 Governor (Eastern Division Governor Elect 2010-11) Larry Marik, ACB, ALB, presented the following poetic report for Eastern Division:

Before I give you this report,
Let me give you some news,
As I was writing this out,
I was thinking like Gretchen Coons.

For Eastern Division, how can it be,
Officers trained, we had 143.

Clubs with four or more officers,
How many were trained,
80 percent is what we gained.

The clubs with a perfect seven,
Now let me get this straight
The number of clubs we had,
It totaled the number 8.

Moving on to new members,
We could use some more,
Our current number is around 124.
For education awards that we had to date,
The numbers of CCs, we are up to 38.

With 16 ACs and 18 CLs,
And the 15 ALs,
Things are going swell.

And the last, but not the least
They are some real gems,

We have a total of seven
And I am talking DTMs.

Now this concludes
Without another revision
Of our report from the Eastern Division!

Frontier Division Governor, Julia Schlack, ACS, gave her division report. Report was not submitted.

International Division Governor, Nancy Shaner, ACS, CL, reported as follows:

The ID has seen incredible growth this year not only in membership but in the emergence of those with an interest in leadership positions. Clubs are strong and focused on the DCP. The AG's have worked hard this year to support, train and lead their clubs to a successful year. We were proud to host the Fall Conference in Grand Rapids.

A brief breakdown of membership accomplishments:

There are 4 areas and 15 clubs in the International Division. Our geographic area covers northern Minnesota, the Iron Range and Thunder Bay, Canada. We cover a lot of territory!

Area 31: (Duluth-based) (2 corporate clubs)

Four clubs grew by 20 new members.

Area 32: (Thunder Bay)

Five clubs increased by 15 new members.

Area 33: (Iron Range)

Three clubs added 6 new members

Area 34: (Newest Area Duluth-Cloquet) (1 corporate club)

Three clubs processed 26 new members.

All total ID has welcomed 67 new members!

We have not just been sitting under our electric blankets all winter!

I am really proud of the work we have done so far. We look forward to an exciting conclusion to this Toastmasters year and we are ready to welcome an outstanding group of new leaders in July! But our year is not over yet. ID spread your wings because we are going to see how high we can fly!

Metro Division Governor, Kathy Elkin, ACS, ALB, reported the following:

In addition, Metro Division formed one new club, 5th Amendment. It also had two Youth Leadership programs.

Northern Division Governor, Brian Rice, DTM, reported the following:

Northern Division is working hard on member growth and educational awards.

Our division has (179) new members this year.

Our members have earned (22) CC, (18) AC, (13) CL, and (2) DTM awards.

Congratulations to Teresa Fein of Sunrisers and Kristine Campbell of Stock Tockers for achieving their DTM awards.

We plan to have speech-a-thons next month to help members achieve their manual speech goals before June 30th.

Our area governors are working hard to support their clubs and spread the Toastmaster message throughout the Northern Division.

Also, congratulations to the Tall Tales contest winner, Dan Cudyer, who is from Northern Division.

Prairie Division Governor, Diane Windingland, DTM, presented the following:

Looking at the 4 critical success factors: new members, new clubs, clubs in progress, and educational awards

New Members: The Prairie Dogs continue to dig up new members in the wide-open prairie! Many clubs have spring open houses planned. New members, 127 of them, are 37% of the base membership number. And, this doesn't even include the 20 charter members of the Albertville Club.

New Clubs: The newest club in the Division, Albertville Toastmasters, chartered in February, is up to 23 members.

Clubs in Progress: No new clubs currently forming, but the Elk River Area Chamber President is interested in being involved in a new Club that will probably be formed in the next Toastmaster Year.

Educational Awards:

CC's: 30

AC's: 11

CL's, AL's, DTM's: 10

Of course, success in Toastmasters isn't just about the numbers; it's about the success of individuals. It has been my pleasure in the last year to get to know a lot of great individuals in the Prairie Division and to be part of their success.

Things should only get better next year because, the Prairie Division Governor Candidate, Kim Windingland, is already popping out of his prairie dog hole to make plans for a great year!

Rivers Division Governor, Faye Heffele, DTM, reported the following:

Rivers Division continues to *Rock* this year. I am proud to have served as the Rivers Division Governor for the past year. I have six awesome Area Governors and 30 fantastic clubs.

1) New Club

Rivers is proud to announce the chartering in March of ALCO Orators in Stillwater! Welcome to Rivers!

2) We are being flooded with New Members

We have gained 182 new members since 7/1!!

3) Educational Awards keep on flowing in -

82 educational awards achieved since July 1st

- 54 are Communication awards
- 28 are Leadership awards

4) Club Status

Most clubs are in pretty rock-solid shape – Four Distinguished clubs so far,
with more on the way to becoming Distinguished.

No club loss, although we have one club which has not paid dues yet,
but we are hopeful.

Three clubs have coaches.

5) Areas

Excellent work done by the Area Governors

Well on their way to becoming Distinguished Areas.

6) Other Activities

Rivers is holding a "Leadership 2010" Seminar on May 22 (see the Website) to not only enhance the public's leadership skills, but also to attract new toastmaster members.

Rivers Rocks!

Southern Division Governor, Linda Larson, DTM, gave her division report. Report was not submitted.

Western Division Governor, David Deutsch, DTM, reported as follows:

Western Division is on track to becoming Distinguished this year. Congratulations to Area 96 - which is lead by Christine Voss - for already becoming a Distinguished Area! Well done! Several more Areas are on their way to becoming Distinguished.

Members are "Daring to Distinguish" themselves by achieving goals. So far this year we have 39 CC, 15 ACB, 4 ACS, 2 ACG, 10 CL, 4 ALB, 2 ALS, and 3 DTM awards. 2 members have completed their High Performance Leadership projects and I know of several others who are in the process of completing theirs.

In the second round of officer training we had 223 officers trained, which was 37 more than first round! 8 clubs had all 7 officers trained in the second round. 4 clubs achieved the Magnificent 7: Those clubs are H2O Masters, Leadership Summit, Cargill Trademasters, and Midday Mumbler. Congratulations to those clubs and their officers!

In Western Division we have chartered 2 clubs to date including "Speaking of Welsh" at Welsh Companies in Minnetonka and "Life Achiev3ers" at ev3 in Plymouth. In addition are very close to chartering 2 more clubs. Excluding the new clubs, Western Division has added 199 new members to Toastmasters.

Thank you to Area Governors Sandy Ryan, Ravi Bakshi, Jane Rischmiller, Chris Tunseth, Jeff LaBore, Christine Voss, and Jennifer Huffman for making Western Division a success! This concludes the Western Division report.

Mary Swanson presented to the District Governor and Secretary an amended Credentials report that the possible votes count was 239, not 233.

Unfinished Business:

Treasurer Terry Ragan presented that the 2009-2010 budget had been posted and it was approved as posted.

Appointed District Officers were confirmed.

New Business: none

Announcements:

Judy Southwick announced that Region 4 has two candidates running for International Director: Jackie Schneider and Pat Hannan.

Dennis Chada announced that First St. Paul Toastmasters will have a 70th Anniversary Celebration on Monday, June 21, 2010.

Allan Bernard announced that the International Convention 2010 will be held at Desert Palm Springs, CA.

The next meeting of the District 6 Council will be October 24, 2010, in Mankato, MN.

(Correction, as noted by the District Secretary in these minutes: The next meeting of the District 6 Council will be October 23rd, not the 24th.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathi Droz, ACG, ALB

District 6 Secretary