

# District 65 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date: July 15, 2006**

**Purpose: District Executive Committee Meeting**

**Location: Holiday Inn, Waterloo NY**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Beth Miller, Sergeant at Arms. Beth led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

District Governor Sam Mehta welcomed the committee and reviewed the mission of the District, including having all attendees read it verbally. Marian Gurowicz led the invocation, about words and actions. Sam Mehta encouraged us to wear our membership pins everywhere, including these meetings. Everyone at the meeting then introduced themselves to the group. (The attendance list is included as Attachment 1 to these minutes). There were then five presentations given by District leaders:

1. Gordon Penniston, DTM, Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG), gave a presentation on Building Membership. Some highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- Always wear your pin.
- All members have membership responsibilities.
- Have demonstration meetings in existing clubs to bring in members and retain them.
- Try to add one new member per month; we always need to bring in new members.
- Get free TM materials like brochures from the Toastmasters International (TI) web site. (He handed out materials from TI on membership.)
- Look at club's club success plan on how they are doing it. (Membership contributes to clubs' distinguished status.)
- Ask clubs if they are doing exit polls – why are people leaving?
- Stress membership in Area and Division Council meetings.

2. Mike Slyck, PDG and Fall Conference Co-Chair (with Mary Bell, DTM), gave a presentation about the upcoming District 65 Fall Conference. Fall Conference. Some highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- The conference is opportunity to serve members to the fullest.
- The District Officers are encouraged to round up members and bring them to fall conference, and to publicize the conference. The average conference attendance has been 150-180, but we have 1600-1800 members, so only 10% of the members have attended conferences in the past.
- On Friday night, the evaluation contest will be held.
- On Saturday, there will be Education presentations for all levels of experience, and the humorous speech contest.
- The Conference Theme is "Honoring Veterans".
- Mike Slyck passed out registration forms, noting the room rate is only \$79 per night.

3. Harry Carlson, PDG, gave a presentation on "The real way to build clubs". The highlights of his presentation and some items interjected by attendees are as follows:

- The most rewarding experience is starting new clubs.
- We need leads from everywhere. For instance, all of us can talk to existing club members for leads.
- Give out the address of the TI web site to everyone and ask them to fill out the new club form, which will go to the District Governor and, in turn, to the appropriate Division Club Extension Specialist.
- Find out how Toastmasters can benefit any individual or company you are talking to, and follow up in a couple weeks offering to give the individual or company a demonstration meeting. (This can be a one-person demonstration meeting.)
- TI will send community and corporate club formation info if we ask for them!
- Sam Mehta said the District 65 goal is to have 5 new clubs in each Division this year.
- Gordon Penniston emphasized that TM an ongoing experience, not a "class".

The Area and Division Governors, and the Public Relations Officer then gave their reports.

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4. Bob Logan, ATM-G and CL, and District 65 Lt Governor for Education and Training (LGET), gave a presentation on "The Dos and Don'ts of Contests". Some highlights of his presentation are as follows:
  - You (the Area or Division Governor) are responsible for contests.
  - Know who your contestants are beforehand.
  - The target speaker for the evaluation contest should be titled the "Test Speaker" instead.
  - The District representative should be treated as an honored guest, and his or her meal paid for.
  - There are many handouts available on contests. (Bob passed out some of them.)
  
5. Sam Mehta, DTM and District Governor, gave presentation on "Becoming Distinguished." Some highlights of his presentation are as follows:
  - A handout on "Becoming Distinguished" was distributed to attendees.
  - Discussed what "Being Distinguished at Toastmasters means."
  - Clubs should have the goal of being Distinguished, Select Distinguished, or President's Distinguished.
  - Discussed how to be a Distinguished, Select Distinguished, or President's Distinguished Area and Division Governor.
  - Clubs must go get members (AGs can't really do that).
  - Always stay focused on the District Mission.

Other matters discussed at the meeting were as follows:

1. Club officers must be told to check on whether training of officers are properly recorded. Also, have a third training session if necessary to accommodate all club officers.
  
2. Kay Whipple – Focal Point and PRO project
  - Newspapers across the state on Top 3
  - Focal point – colorful – go out electronically (AGs be sure all club members get them!) unless no e-mail.
  - Fall conference – will be doing publicity
  
3. Sam Mehta went over his five District 65 goals:
  - a. 50% of clubs should be at least Distinguished
  - b. 25% of members (400 plus) should achieve one or more educational awards.
  - c. Achieve over 100 clubs for the first time in District 65 history.
  - d. At least 2/3 of all club officers should be trained.
  - e. Build 5 new clubs in each of the four Divisions.
  
4. For the Spring contests, Tall Tales is changed to Table Topics (Fall still the same - Evaluation and Humorous Speech contests.)
  
5. Bob Logan said we need to provide good training. Survey officers before winter training on what they want covered. It should be something different from summer training.
  - Implementing the new CL manual is causing problems in some clubs.
  - Bring CL manual to meetings
  
6. Sam Mehta said the District mileage rate is 20 cents per mile; mileage for 2 AG visits per year will be covered.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Ferens, DTM.  
Secretary, District 65