

Meeting Date: September 23, 2006

Purpose: District Leadership Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, Waterloo NY

The leadership breakfast meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by **Beth Miller**, Sergeant at Arms. Beth led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Invocation was given by **Liliya Lifanova**, President of Talk-Eaze Club. The leadership breakfast, was attended by 66 Toastmasters, including 24 District Officers, and 42 club officers, mainly Presidents and Educational Vice Presidents. Presentations during the leadership breakfast were as follows:

- a. The "Top 3" District Officers, District 65 Governor **Sam Mehta**, LGET **Bob Logan**, LGM **Taz Cannon** gave short presentations on the District 65 theme: "Thoughts and Words into Action".
- b. **Kay Whipple** gave a presentation on the Focal Point newsletter.
- c. **Mike Slyck** and **Mary Bell**, fall conference co-chairs gave a presentation about the upcoming Fall Conference in Rochester, NY November 17-18, 2006.
- d. **Joan Sprague** gave a presentation on "Value in Evaluation".
- e. **Marian Lamanna**, DTM, PDG gave information on Pat Panfile-Ben Luce Award information and nomination form.
- f. **Nancy Scott**, DTM, PDG gave a presentation on "Attracting New Members."
- g. **Taz Cannon** announced the "Club Incentive Award" program for club membership growth during the period September 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007). Clubs must show a net increase of 5 members during September 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007; clubs must be in good standing by April 10, 2007; the club with the highest percentage of member increases, from each of the four divisions, will win a presentation Easel.
- h. **Sam Mehta** recognized the clubs that reached Distinguished level or higher for the Toastmasters year 2005-2006, and announced the winners (accompanied by IPDG, **Gordon Penniston**) of the "Just 4 Campaign" which ran from April, 2006 through June, 2006.
- i. The District Leadership Breakfast was adjourned at 12 noon.

Lunch for the District Executive Committee members was held from 12 Noon to 1:15 PM. Trophies and certificates were distributed during this period.

The District 65 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM by **Beth Miller**, Sergeant at Arms. She called **Sam Mehta** to the lectern, and Sam thanked those Division Governors and Area Governors who submitted their reports by the September 15 deadline. The following items were then discussed:

1. The Area and Division Governors present gave their oral reports. (A summary of these reports is included as Attachment 1 to these minutes.) **Sam Mehta** asked Area Governors to provide in details specific problems, if any, on club issues in their future reports and keep the "Top 3" District Officers informed of problems.
2. Upcoming Area and Division speech contests were discussed. LGET **Bob Logan** urged all Area and Division Governors to have their trophies at the contest and get them engraved beforehand. He also recommended that experienced Toastmasters serve in the positions of Contest Chair and Chief Judge, and to adjourn the contest immediately after winners are announced. **Sam Mehta** recommended that the test speaker give a 5 to 7 minute speech from the Basic Communications and Leadership Manual (since contestants are often unfamiliar with the Advanced Manuals), and test speaker preferably not use notes. He also

said that a "Top 3" representative will not be at all Area contests, since 6 contests (now 7) are being held on October 14th and 4 on October 21st. It was emphasized that the District Conference be promoted at Area and Division Contests, with emphasis on the "World Champion of Public Speaking" being there. His expenses are being covered by local corporate sponsors.

3. Two financial matters were discussed. **Taz Cannon** emphasized the importance of club dues being paid on time, and urged District Officers to set the example by paying early. He also encouraged clubs to consider annual dues payment. **Sam Mehta** said that about 80 people said they would be here today, but only 66 showed up (including only 24 of 30 District Officers). This event will cost District 65 about \$ 350+. Several attendees agreed with **Sam Mehta** that those District Officers, who said they were attending but did not show up, should be asked to pay \$15.00 to the District to help make up the deficit.

4. The District 65 budget was next discussed. It is consistent with previous year's projection of approximately \$22,000 in revenue (membership dues), assuming current members renew their membership in October and April 2007, plus about 350 new members join. Two items that are over budget percentage-wise are purchases from TI (speech contest trophies), about 15% of the budget instead of 10% recommended by TI; travel expenses, 32% of the budget instead of 30% recommended by TI. (We may have to reduce "Top 3" District Officers travel and may not be able to attend all of the Area contests). The Annual Budget was put to vote for approval by the executive committee members. Area 13 Governor **Ed Parmenter** moved we approve the budget. The motion was seconded, and the Annual Budget was approved unanimously. The Annual Budget will be placed on District web site (along with these minutes). The District 65 Annual Budget will put to vote to the District Council, at the District Business Meeting on Nov.18, 2006 in the afternoon at the District Conference in Rochester.

5. **Sam Mehta** announced that the "Top 3" Officers will submit a 35-page District Success Plan (DSP) to TI early next week.

6. The "Top 3" Officers then hosted a question and answer session. Area 5 Governor **Joan Post**, said TI only supplied a limited number of contest ballots and we are not supposed to reproduce them, so what should we do? **Sam Mehta** said that TI restricts copying of certificates, but not judging forms. **Sam Mehta** added that clubs can make their own certificates, but can not include the TI logo or mention Toastmasters International name, although mentioning a club's name (e.g., Empire Statesmen Toastmasters) is acceptable. Area 6 Governor **Kate Flanagan** asked if we should try to increase members to increase our budget. **Sam Mehta** responded by saying of course, increasing our membership is always desirable.

7. **Sam Mehta** thanked all of the district officers for attending, and remarked that the Eastern and Western Divisions had all of their District Officers present. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Ferens, DTM.

Secretary, District 65

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Attachment 1: Excerpts from oral Area and Division Reports

Areas 2 (Marc Campos): Lost 1 club, others are at charter strength. Contest Sept 30 at 9:30

Area 3 (Peter Cooper): 4 clubs not charter strength – one club advanced that does not want to be distinguished, but give credit to other clubs. Contest Oct 10 6PM

Area 4 (Patricia McGrath): Visited 2 clubs – 2 corporate clubs – Corporate members won't get out of club. 4 clubs have 20 or more members. Contest October 6.

Area 5 (Joan Post): 6 clubs. If AG can not visit, Division Governor can go on AG's behalf. Membership a problem – TI needs to get word out (maybe national advertising?)

Area 6 (Kate Flanagan): Surveys – zoomerang.com, surveymonkey (Postprandial) – Bunch of advantages from membership. We are losing some members including multiple club members. Plan to have a guest night. Contest Oct 14 / 10-2

Area 7 (Ruth Parmenter): 6 clubs – one low membership Club – Area contest Oct 11, 6:30

Area 8 (Linda Juteau): 3 clubs during the day – 2 corporate clubs Spirited Speakers rebuilding – Roman Orators has a problem with lack of communication – potential 5 clubs – Hartford Insurance charter forms – Oneida

T-mail to keep clubs informed about Area and District to club members. Area contest will be held on Oct 11 6:30 at Hart's Inn, Whitesboro.

Area 9 (John Montgomery): In good shape. Problem with SUNY Binghamton, do not have officer training because not back yet. Area contest will be on Oct 14. (**Bob Logan** – Can still do training even if it does not "count". **Pete Cooper** – can we use WEBEX?

Teleconferencing? (But TI now requires face-to-face training).

Area 11 (Roger Leeson): 5 clubs. 4 daytime meetings (could do community service time to attend noontime clubs?) Problem is with geographic disbursement. Need to get word out.

Area Contest Oct 21 10-2

Area 12 (Chris Phelan): 6 clubs – 5 upward – Distinguished Club should be easy – contest Oct 14 10:30 – 2:30 (North Syracuse Public Library)

Area 13 (Ed Parmenter): Visited all 5 clubs. Contest at O'Brien & Gere Building – Oct 12

Area 14 (Bud Kolich): Contest Sat Oct 7.

Area 19 (Charles Deacon): 4 clubs – will lose 1, only 1 at charter strengths – layoffs and downsizing. IM Talking will probably fold. Area contest on Oct 21, 8:30-12:00 but no contestants yet. (**Sam Mehta** – AG can help clubs succeed. Sam downplayed the importance of a contest and recommended to get the regular club meetings, going first.)

Area 18 (Tom Scott): 4 clubs – 3 company clubs. Contest a problem. Contest Oct 10 5PM. Bring guests to contests!

Area 17 (Vicki Wienke): Downtownti.org – club web site – Contest Fri, Oct 6.

Eastern Division (Pat Janecek): 52% Officers trained, but not many clubs present. But all ED AGs present. Syracuse U, Liverpool may charter. Division Contest, Nov 4 10:30 – 2:30

Western Division (Marian Gurowicz): All AGs present. Training – apathy among club leaders. The Division contest is on Saturday, November 4.