

District 65 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 24, 2007

Purpose: District Executive Committee Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn, Waterloo NY

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Dan Ferens, Acting Sergeant at Arms. He thanked everyone for coming, especially considering the bad weather. Dan led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

District Governor Sam Mehta welcomed the district officers, and Lt Governor for Marketing Taz Cannon did the invocation. Sam Mehta read the District 65 mission statement and emphasized our leadership role. He congratulated Area Governors, as there were 12 Area Governor Visit reports so far from clubs. He urged Area Governors to do visits as soon as possible. He said that 7 clubs have enough points for Distinguished status so far, and AM Lockport has enough for Select Distinguished. However, these statuses are only confirmed after clubs pay their membership dues by April 1. Division training for club officers has been completed. There is only 1/3 of Toastmasters International year left, and we have a lot to accomplish between now and June 30. Dates of upcoming contest events and the mid-year audit report are on the District 65 web site, and Sam Mehta encouraged us to visit this site regularly as well as the TI web site where information is updated every Thursday and new members are acknowledged by TI within 24 hours when their applications are submitted on-line. Club Table Topics contests are popular, maybe because no preparation is needed on the part of the contestants. At a few clubs, 50-60% of club members in attendance want to enter the contest, so there is a challenge in finding people to fill other positions like judges and timers. Sam Mehta recognized Ashok Subramanian as the new Southern Division Governor.

John Montgomery, Area 9 Governor, gave a presentation on "How You Can Help Clubs Become Distinguished" and handed out charts. Some of the highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- Follow Manual suggestions, like having at least 2 club visits a year for Area Governors.
- Good working relationships with clubs – improve by looking at clubs as customers and we are the service providers. They have different cultures –accommodate this.
- Focus on Club President – don't go behind back – coordinate with President for club visits
- Stress benefits of DCP to members – stronger clubs result when followed
- Identify potential leaders and good speakers
- Experts on DCP and C&L awards
- Area Level activities (contests, Speechcraft, youth leadership, speak-a-thons (can get credit for manual speeches) are a good way to reach for new members, publicize achievement, long speeches
- Sales – AG is sales person, DCP is product, and club is customer

Bob Logan, Lt Governor for Education and Training, presented mid year club training results.

- No clubs with 7, 26 clubs with 1 or none (clubs that need most help, incidentally). % of officers per Division from 49% in East to 27% in west, short of the 2/3 goal Sam Mehta set.
- Bob will send AGs a list of clubs and officers trained – they should check accuracy.
- Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) training starts in June. There will be more details at the District Conference.
- For DCP purposes, AGs can check trained officers on TI web site.
- There is a possibility of on-line training in the future, but TI policy does not allow it; Club Officers must be trained by authorized district representatives in a live training session.

Sam Mehta then talked about TLI and reasons for it. There is optional training beyond that for club officers, such as training for mentors and club coaches. Also, there is feedback that current training is always the same. TLI is being done by all other Region 6 Districts, and is as big an event as the District Conference in some ways. Also, dues-paying members should not have untrained officers! Even PDGs attend training when club officers! There will be two locations – one between Rochester and Buffalo and the other between Syracuse and Binghamton.

Amy Burnell presented the upcoming District 65 Conference as a TM clinic – "Diagnosis Toastmaster-itis" cure in Spring. The conference will be at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle in East Syracuse; there is info on the District 65 web site. Dance lessons Friday night as social. Theme is spring fever and lists of ailments – get other TMs to find the "cure".

After a 10-minute break, **Taz Cannon** gave a presentation on retaining and building club membership and provided a handout.

- To retain members, we should make meetings interesting, be professional, start and end on time, plan in advance (at least 3 weeks), set club goals early, and keep goals visible to members at meetings. (Warren Musselman, Area 15 Governor, talked about "trading" on DCP, like delaying until July 1 if goals already met. This is probably not a good idea.)

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- To build clubs and membership, focus on awards (CMIC, Smedley, Talk up Toastmasters, Beat the Clock), have public meetings, do a Speechcraft, talk to people about TM, have demo meetings, get VP PR in contact with Chamber. The current District 65 CMIC contest has results posted to the District web site every Friday.

Harry Carlson, PDG and Chair of Redistricting, led a discussion on realignment issues. One consideration is that TI recommends 4-7 clubs per Area, although 3 clubs is ok for a while if necessary. Another consideration is whether Area Governors can easily get to clubs in Area (contests, visits, training). Division Governors may face same issues.

- **Pat Janecek**, Eastern Division Governor, said there are some distance-related challenges. For example, Toastmasters in the Utica-Rome area do not want to travel to Syracuse for training and Crown City in Cortland goes to Ithaca (in the Southern Division) for training instead of Syracuse since Ithaca is closer.

- In the Western Division, newly-created Area 19 has lost two of four clubs. Perhaps the remaining clubs should be transferred to Area 3.

- Harry Carlson said redistricting can only be voted on at a District Conference. Bob Logan encouraged us to contact Harry if we have any ideas about redistricting.

Bob Logan then discussed Dos and Don'ts of Area Contests. Some of these are as follows:

- Have a tiebreaking judge
- Delegate (AG) – Get all clubs involved
- Get help and commitment, and follow up (pay in advance)
- Publicize (e.g., E-mail clubs) and keep contest affordable
- District Rep (Sam, Taz, Bob, or Div Governor) – give them time to speak, and get their Title right
- Keep paperwork (bios, certificates of eligibility)
- Announce dignitaries (PDGs, etc.)
- Use trophies and certificates given that the District provides.
- Do not list judges, and do not identify what club/area/Division contestants are from
- Watch people who have dual membership and try to compete in 2 contests or go straight to Area.

Sam Mehta then presented the Pulse of the District, and handed out numbers–

- There are 1798 members – but some are counted twice
- 388 new members since July 1 (1/5 members of D65 have been Toastmasters 8 months or less)
- 1 out of every 3 members in District 65 are Club Officers
- District Critical Success Factors: (a) Number of ACs, (b) Number of CCs, (c) Number of New Clubs, and (d) Number of New Members. The District budget must be spent on these four items only.
- Over and above Education Goals – to be one of the top world class Districts.
- Every Area Governor must work with clubs to make sure members renewed on 1 April
- Names of members in area – will be given to AGs
- There are 87 active clubs, but lost 6 – so have to add 8 to get to 95, which is our goal.
- Each Area should build one club.
- We can combine the application to organize process, when 20 members are available, charter right away
- Don't push contests and training on formative clubs, especially those who resist
- Monitor membership and DCP progress on TI web site status, especially AGs

Area and Division Governor Reports were next presented. (These are summarized in Attachment 1 to these minutes.)

General Questions were then addressed. One item is that dues in April are important

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Ferens, DTM.
Secretary, District 65

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Attachment 1 Summary of Area and Division Governor reports

A9 (John Montgomery) –

- Morning Knights Distinguished, 4 out of 5 possible, 17 new members, club visits completed, Area contest hosted by 2 Bing U. clubs

A15 (Warren) – 3 out of 4 clubs need member gains for Distinguished. One club having membership contest – 3 out of 4 Distinguished if membership issues met – potential for Lockheed in Owego – (Sam 18 publicity ideas, what can we do – action plan for Owego)

A18 (Tom Scott) – 2 clubs cold, 3 hot (2 prospective clubs)

Cold – Verbal Spartans, Gateway – Meet, but not involved outside

Or membership drive or training

Hot – Jabberwocky (Tom McKellop doing very well.)

Lockheed Martin

SU School of Law

A16 (Cathy Shannon)

Direction of Distinguished - Membership increasing, most officers trained, Blues Expression up to 19 and held contest.

A1 (Tom Sergent) – 4 of 5 adding members – Xerox should be up to 20 and Lilac City 25 and 6 points, but don't send things in. Life Learners 6 points also. Was glad to get letter from Sam – Area contest 24th of March – Simon who knows (Kay helping Club Coach Joellen Kuhl)

A19 (Charlie Deacon)

- Not well – lost 2 of 4 – McIntalk to different locations in health system to get more enthusiasm – No contests Speak for Success does not compete and both clubs no training.

A10 (Glen Hughes)

3 strong clubs – 4th club strong but no program (Johnson 0- Cornell)

- Seabord – problem with activities

Advanced Club – looking for “fresh blood”

- Another club in Cornell?

- Demo 1st week in May

A8 (Linda Juteau)

- Good demo meeting at MVN Health

- Mohawk Valley doing well – new members

- close to Distinguished (

Roman Orators – doing well but communications problem. Carl DeFranco wants to be AG

Spirited Speaker – 4 new members, but only 1 trained

Utica National – 2 locations – split into 2 clubs

A12 (Chris Phelan)

4 of 6 over 20 (Crown City 21)

Southside – 45 applications. But no checks?!

2 clubs on cusp (580, Energetics)

DGP – G/Y/R 3 G, 2 Y, 1 R (Southside)

ED (Pat Janecek)

- All AGs set, visits in progress with 1 exception – Ruth Parmenter incapacitated (A7) – request assistant be appointed.

CD (Cathy Shannon)

- 2 rounds training

- 88 trained

- several clubs just one more

- training evaluation – maybe we need a District form

Contest set, fee is \$4.00

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SD (Ashok Subramanian)

- Contest Mar 31 10AM Binghamton U.

Area 9, 10 doing well

A11 and 15 – A11 Governor Roger Leeson has been sick – Ashok will cover for him

WD Extension (Harry)

- GEICO ongoing – young members promoted – so inconvenient – getting people back.

CURBEL and Enterprise Rent-A-Car are possibilities

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Y	N	Name/Email	Office	Area	Division
x		Sam M Mehta	DG	0	
x		Bob Logan	LGET	0	
x		Taz Cannon	LGM	0	
	x	Kay Whipple	DPR	0	
	x	Matt Banazek	DT	0	
x		Dan Ferens	DS	0	
	x	Beth Miller	DSA	0	
	x	Gordon V. Penniston	IPDG	0	
x		Cathy Shannon	DIVG, A16G	0	C
x		Pat Janecek	DIVG	0	E
x		Ashok Subramanian	DIVG	0	S
	x	Marian Gurowicz	DIVG	0	W
x		Tom Sergent	AG	1	C
	x	Marc Campos	AG	2	W
	x	Peter Cooper	AG	3	W
	x	Mike Batz	AG	4	C
	x	Joan Post	AG	5	C
	x	Kate Flanagan	AG	6	C
	x	Ruth Parmenter	AG	7	E
x		Linda Juteau	AG	8	E
x		John Montgomery	AG	9	S
x		Glenn Hughes	AG	10	S
	x	Roger Leeson	AG	11	S
x		Chris Phelan	AG	12	E
	x	Ed Parmenter	AG	13	E
	x	Bud Kolich	AG	14	W
x		Warren Musselman	AG	15	S
	x	Vicky Weinke	AG	17	W
x		Tom Scott	AG	18	E
x		Charles Deacon	AG	19	W
x		Harry Carlson	WD Club Ext		
	x	Lorraine Mott	ED Club Ext		

Attachment 2: Attendee List for February 24, 2007