

District 8 Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting
August 29, 2009 • 10:00 a.m.
Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library
2750 Highway K
O'Fallon, MO 63368-7859

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by David Mallory, Sergeant-at-Arms, at 11:25 a.m.

Quorum Report from IPDG

Tony Gartner, IPDG, reported that a quorum was present.

Executive Committee Members Present:

District Elected Officers:

District 8 Governor – Dori Drummond
Lt. Governor Education & Training – Tim Spezia
Lt. Governor Marketing – John Barry
Division A Governor – Carole Breckner
Division B Governor – Kathryn Mokriakow
Division C Governor – Randy Lanning
Division E Governor, Awards & Recognition Chair – Curtis Scroggins

District Appointed Officers:

Treasurer – Tom Coscia
Secretary – Frank Yates
Public Relations Officer – Jacquie Vick
Sergeant-at-Arms, Resource Manual – David Mallory

Area 1 Governor, Communic-8 Co-Editor– Joann York
Area 2 Governor – Sherri Rogers
Area 4 Governor – Paul Cook
Area 6 Governor – Samantha Schaefer
Area 7 Governor – Margie Anglen
Area 9 Governor – Eric Heng
Area 12 Governor – Jane Clark
Area 15 Governor – Raymond Allen
Area 16 Governor – Lydia Pochedly
Area 18 Governor – Kristi Holsinger
Area 19 Governor – Robin Anderson
Area 20 Governor – Brenda English
Area 21 Governor – Tom Houston

Committee Chairs:

Immediate Past District Governor, Credentials Chair, Nominating, Realignment –
Tony Gartner
Membership Retention Committee Co-Chair – Margaret Walker
Policy, Proxy Committee Chair – Mary Kerwin

Other persons present:
Cynthia Scroggins

Executive Committee Members Excused/Absent:

Division F Governor – Thomas Ahillen
Area 3 Governor – William Levins
Area 5 Governor – Karen Cupp
Area 8 Governor – Dossie (D. J.) Randle
Area 10 Governor – Aprill Edwards
Area 13 Governor – Nadia LaFlam
Area 14 Governor – Tishia Tsiptsis-Gibson

Approval of Agenda

Lydia Pochedly, Area 16 Governor, moved that the agenda be adopted with the addition of the District Resource Manual under “Other Committee Reports.” Motion seconded by Raymond Allen, Area 15 Governor. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Secretary Minutes

The minutes of the April 4, 2009 DEC Meeting were not available. Frank Yates will contact the previous District Secretary, Lora Mather, to obtain copies of the Minutes for April 4, 2009 DEC Meeting and the May 16, 2009 District Council Meeting.

Officer Reports

Division A Governor – Carole Breckner

Division A has four areas—Areas 2, 4, 5, and 9. Three of four area governors are present. She has not heard from Area 5 Governor, Karen Cupp, because Karen has been in the process of moving her club. Carole will get additional information for Area 5 shortly, and she has asked Karen to email her and copy that information to the District Governor.

Area 2—One club has been visited by Sherri Rogers, and four were rescheduled due to a physical impairment she encountered. She is healing. She has heard from all the clubs, her contest is September 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Edward Jones on Manchester, where the TLI was held. There were some problems contacting Maryville Club and Chesterfield Club. They were slow in getting their information back, but it will happen.

Area 4—Paul Cook held his Area Council meeting on July 27th. Two of five clubs have been visited; the others have been scheduled. Their contest is September 12 from 9:30 a.m. until it concludes, at the Oak Bend Library, at Big Bend and I-44. Jeffco Challengers Club has a problem with membership.

Area 9—Eric Heng is here, and he has visited five of six clubs. He has finished two club visit reports, and the remaining will be finished by the end of September. His contest is September 19 at 10:00 a.m., at Unigroup Club, at I-270 and I-44. An Area Council meeting will occur after the contest.

Division B Governor — Kathryn Mokriakow

Area 3—The contest date is set for September 24. William Levins has visited four clubs so far, and he will do a second round in September. He will start submitting those reports in the middle of September. Covidien Communicators Club already has one AC-B. Scriptmasters Club has six new members this year. They are going to present to management of Express Scripts. All the clubs have at least four officers trained, except for one club. Covidien Communicators Club has planned an Awards Recognition Day for September 15 to honor past year awards that were received.

Area 16—Lydia Pochedly has set her area speech contest for September 26. General Motor Mouths Club, which ended the year with Presidents Distinguished, has one CC and two CLs. They are planning a membership drive later this year, and they are going to develop a website by October 1. SALT Club has a book swap at the beginning of their meeting where they call for a CL manual to be swapped.

Area 18—Kristi Holsinger has posted three of her club visits and she will have her fourth posted by next Thursday. Money Talks Club is going to have a membership drive on September 15. Just Us Club is closing on the base in December, but the club may be moved off the base. The President of Money Talks Club has resigned. The area speech contest is set for September 15.

Area 20—They have four clubs. Brenda English is just beginning, so she doesn't have a good feel for her clubs yet. She is working with Alton Club. They have no officers trained, so there is a big challenge for her there.

Division C Governor — Randy Lanning

At the Spring Conference, Division C was realigned to include Areas 1, 6, and 10. The geographic area spreads from Belleville, IL northeast to Decatur, and to Quincy at the north end. Division C has completed two major events. First, a Division C TLI was held in Springfield, IL on August 1. Joann York did a lot of heavy lifting to make that happen, where approximately 28 club officers were trained. The second was to hold a District-wide speech contest training session, at Mascoutah, IL, where approximately 35 were in attendance at this valued training session. Division C clubs are in the process of conducting their respective speech contests, culminating with the Division C contest to be held Saturday, October 24. Area 6 has a planned speech contest on October 3, and Area 1 and Area 10 plan to hold a joint contest in the Springfield area at UI-S on October 10. All clubs in Area 6 have attained the DCP goal of officers trained, and Area 1 has all but one club that has completed that goal. Both Areas 1 and 6 have five or six educational awards to their credit. Unfortunately, in Area 6, we lost one club—Talk of the Town, in Mt. Vernon, IL. Both areas 1 and 6 have prospects for chartering new clubs.

Division E Governor — Curtis Scroggins

Everything is “excellent” in Division E. Two area governors are present, Margie Anglen and Tom Houston.

Area 7—Four of five club visits have been completed. Margie will post her reports on Sunday. She has recruited Pam Melloway as her Assistant Area Governor. There will be a joint Area Speech Contest with Area 7 and Area 21 on September 19. She has drafted her goals and will finalize them soon.

Area 14—Tishia Tsiptsis-Gibson is working on getting club officers trained. None attended the Division E TLI held in July. Her area contest will be September 28. Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology Club will be holding an open house on September 10. Tishia will conduct her club visits in September.

Area 21—All clubs had at least four officers trained, including the Talu club, for which a special visit was made.

About 40 officers were trained at the Division E TLI at the end of July. The Division E Contest will be October 17. There are prospects for a new club at Lincoln University.

Division F Governor — Thomas Ahillen (Ray Allen reporting)

Four Areas in Division F—8, 12, 15, and 19. All area governors have either started or completed their visits. Visits are completed for Areas 12 and 19. Area 15 has four of six visits completed. Area 8 has completed two visits and is scheduling the remaining visits with the club presidents. Twelve educational awards have been posted so far for Division F. Make-up officer training was held on Tuesday, August 11. The area governors participated in the training. Three clubs have not had their officers trained, but one club will be done this afternoon. Free Speakers Club is holding an open house on September 20. Midtown Clayton is observing its 65th anniversary on October 6. A new club is being formed called Commerce Bank, in Area 12. The Division F Contest is not scheduled, still looking for a location, tentatively will be held on October 17 or 24.

Marketing Report — John Barry, LGM

We are off to a great start. We have two clubs chartered—Orators Club from Harrah's Casino and Commerce Bank Club. We have a dozen in various stages of development. City of St. Peters, H&R Block is up to 15 members, MoDot has picked their name, "RoadMasters Toastmasters," Church on the Rock has had three meetings and a congregation of 3,000 to choose from. Grace Community Chapel has a congregation of 350 and has held three meetings. We held the first meeting with a retirement center. Mary Kerwin has been pushing this idea for years. At the Breeze Retirement Center we had a demo meeting with 16 attending. Even though they are there 24 hours a day 7 days a week they couldn't agree on a time and day of the week to hold a meeting. We are working on several leads: Jacobs Engineering, ScottTrade, Panera Bread, and Ameren, with 10,000 employees.

The Ring the Bell award, from July 1 to June 30, is for the individuals who recruit the most members. Members who recruit three members will receive a Toastmasters pen, members who recruit five members will receive a Toastmasters keychain, members who recruit seven members will receive a \$10 gift certificate. The winner will receive a

plaque. If there had been an award last year, the winner would have been Eileen Roth, who recruited 23 members.

Education and Training Report — Tim Spezia, LGET

The contract is almost finalized for the May 7–8, 2010 Spring Conference to be held at the Route 66 Hotel in Springfield, IL. A TLI is scheduled for January 30. The Fall Conference will be held on November 20–21 at the Crowne Plaza in Clayton, MO. Workshops are now being set up. Talk with Tim if you want to present at a workshop.

We are now taking nominations for the Communication & Leadership Award. This award is for a non-Toastmaster in television or radio or other media within the District 8 boundary who has been a leader or made a difference in the art of communication. An example is a person who presents excellent keynote speeches. The winner will be invited to be our keynote speaker at our Fall Conference.

The Educational Survey on the web stopped taking responses when the count reached 100. This limit has now been removed so we need to publicize to the clubs that more responses can be received. We need as many responses as we can get to help set the goals for the district.

The Raise the Bar award is for individuals who submit the most educational awards. The start and end dates and the prizes are the same as for the Ring the Bell award (above). The CC recognition button will be presented to each member who submits this award. As of yesterday, 28 CC awards have been submitted, which is 19 percent of the annual goal. We are also in good shape on AC awards. We will send our recognition letters for CC recipients. Please make clubs aware that it is important for members to have current mailing addresses and email addresses on file at TI.

District Governor's Report — Dori Drummond

Membership, membership, membership. We are running behind our membership numbers from last year. The clubs have recruited 49 fewer new members than we had at this time last year. We have to have a two percent growth. Area governors need to complete their club visits in the next two months. When the area governors are at the clubs, remind them of the Ring the Bell and Raise the Bar honors. Let them know what's in it for them. Let them know about the Smedley Award.

Last year, we set a goal of 60 distinguished clubs. District 8 had the best year it has had in nine years, finishing 22nd in the world. We had 43 distinguished clubs which was better than the year before. We had a record number of Presidents Distinguished clubs but it wasn't what we had hoped for. We would still like to have 60 distinguished clubs. If the clubs can recruit new members early, it will make their work easier later on.

Margaret Walker did an excellent job of presenting the membership renewals today. John Barry is doing a fantastic job on new clubs. But it doesn't matter how many clubs you build if members fall out at the bottom. I would like to see every club have a minimum of 75–80 percent renewals. Clubs need to have at least six renewals posted to

TI by October 1. They should keep collecting dues and post the remaining members as soon as possible.

Make-up training or TLI sessions were led by Carole Breckner, Randy Lanning, Curtis Scroggins, and Kat Mokriakow. Many have also done one-to-one training. Please continue to work with John Barry on building up new clubs. For area governors to be Presidents Distinguished, a net growth of clubs is required. SLAR and Talk of the Town clubs are now gone, and we may lose Just Us. Turn in officer release forms to Dori.

Proposal A passed at the Toastmasters International Convention in August. There will be no more regional conferences. Every District International Speech Contest winner will have to travel to the International Convention to compete in a runoff. The top three officers will have to be trained at the International Convention. There will still be a mid-year training. International Directors will be nominated by an International Leadership Committee. There will no longer be Regional proxy forms in the mail. International proxy forms will still be sent. The District received 40 percent of the proxy forms this year.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Coscia submitted the following written reports:

“Monthly Treasurer's Report for the Period April 1, 2009–April 30, 2009”

Tom directed attention to page 6 of the report which describes monthly hotline expenses, the newsletter, contest mailings, division trophies, and travel expenses.

Joann York, Area 1 Governor, moved that the April report be accepted. Motion seconded by Area 16 Governor Lydia Pochedly. Motion carried.

“Monthly Treasurer's Report for the Period May 1, 2009–May 31, 2009”

Tom directed attention to page 6 of the report which describes monthly hotline expenses, newsletter postage, CC buttons, top three recognition, and travel expenses.

Tim Spezia asked a question about the Funds available portion, which was blank in the narrative. Tom directed attention to page 1, Total Funds Available in the Y-T-D Actual column, showing a balance of \$58,703.80. Carole Breckner, Division A Governor, moved that the May report be approved. Motion seconded by Area 1 Governor Joann York. Tim Spezia, LGET, moved that the motion be amended to fill in the Funds available section on page 6 with the value \$58,703.80. Carole Breckner, Division A Governor, seconded the amendment. Amendment carried. Motion as amended carried.

“Monthly Treasurer's Report for the Period June 1, 2009–June 30, 2009”

Tom stated that this is the report where most of the expenses are reported. Tom directed attention to page 6 of the report for expenses in marketing, communications, education, contests (which went over budget—\$3,703.39 actual, compared to \$2,900 budget), administration, and travel. Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor, moved that the June report be accepted. Motion seconded by Area 19 Governor Robin Anderson. Motion carried.

“Year End Audit Report for the Period July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009”

Tom directed attention to page 3 of the report and then to page 4 of the report, which was prepared by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee was led by Jim Schwarz, and included Bernie Donnelly and Wayne Allen. Recommendation 1 was to create a documentation system for the account with the U.S. Post Office to support the “Bulk Postage Balance” category in monthly treasury reports. Tom stated that he has called the Post Office to obtain a balance. Carole Breckner stated that Tom could visit the Post Office and receive a printed statement of the balance. The Audit Committee also recommended separate accounting for TLI expenses and records, checking account statements, and receipts for the fall and spring conferences for Audit Committee review. There was also a \$4.00 expense in Marketing that was not documented. Carole Breckner, Division A Governor, moved that the report be accepted. Motion seconded by Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor. Motion carried.

“Annual Budget for the Period July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010”

Tom directed attention to the maximum expenditure percentages on page 1 of the report, then to pages 6 and 7 for the narrative portion. Jacquie Vick, District PRO, asked questions about the budget for Public Relations. Tom assured her that there was money available for Public Relations. Tim Spezia, LGET, asked about the budget for the website. This expense would be in Other 710, “Miscellaneous.” Dori Drummond, DG, asked where the second ID hotel expenses would be budgeted, since the visit cannot be conference-related. The recommendation was to include under Marketing 601, “Building New Clubs.” Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor, moved that the Budget be approved as presented. Motion seconded by Lydia Pochedly, Area 16 Governor. Motion carried.

Other Committee Reports

Long Range Planning—Tony Gartner will lead, and other past District Governors will serve on the committee.

Speakers Bureau—Kevin Derosiers not present. Kevin is building a list of speakers to go out to the community and talk about Toastmasters. Kevin will contact other organizations by mail and offer them speakers.

Public Relations—Jacquie Vick has reached out to VPPRs and let them know that she is a resource for them and they are a resource for each other. She has received some feedback. Jacquie has also looked into a Club Coaching PR talk show. It will be videotaped and posted on the website. She will also be promoting the 85th Anniversary of Toastmasters International.

Club Coaching—Wayne Allen not present. There will be a three-or-four-step website program of different talk shows and formats, featuring educational programming, and a corporate club. District 8 led the region in percentage of corporate clubs. Wayne Allen is looking for volunteer club coaches. A club that is below 13 in paid members is eligible for a club coach. There are sometimes challenges in getting a club to accept a coach.

District 8 Resource Manual/District Directory—David Mallory. The Resource Manual contains District policies and historical information. The directory contains contact

information. The Resource Manual is being reviewed by TI. The Directory will be distributed by email in next few days. Please review your own contact information for accuracy. If an Area or Division has a website or blog, it can be publicized in the Directory.

Proxy and Policy—Mary Kerwin is asking the Division Governors to participate on the Policy Committee or to select two representatives from their respective Divisions to serve on the Committee. Dori Drummond stated that the Committee will not be meeting for several months.

Unfinished Business

none.

New Business

District 8 website. Dale Lancaster, webmaster. Jane Clark, Area 12 Governor, moved that the www.dist8tm.org URL be owned by District 8. Motion seconded by Tony Gartner, IPDG. Curtis Scroggins, Division E Governor, moved that the motion be amended such that “URL” be struck and replaced with “domain name.” Amendment seconded by Area 4 Governor Paul Cook. The amendment carried. The motion as amended carried.

Michael Smith, outgoing ID, made 18 visits to District 8 during his service, far beyond the normal five visits expected of an ID. Dori Drummond, DG, wants to present a plaque to Michael at the Fall Conference. Individual donations must be used to pay for the plaque.

District 8 Credit Card merchant account. Tim Spezia, LGET, moved that District 8 create the accounts necessary for accepting credit cards for payments for pilot basis, for conferences, book store, and TLI book stores. Motion seconded by Paul Cook, Area 4 Governor. Tim discussed issues such as fees, cost of refunds, and training of cashiers to receive the payments. The pilot will run for the remainder of the year (until June 30, 2010). Motion carried.

Announcements

Dori Drummond, DG, asked the area governors to contact their clubs asking them to schedule Open Houses. Dori had copies of brochures available to be delivered to clubs. Tim Spezia, LGET, will post electronic versions of brochures on the website.

Contest materials for area governors need to be delivered early to allow them to plan for their contests.

Fall Conference—November 20–21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton, MO. Promote the Fall Conference at area and division contests. Theme: “Motiv-8 Today to Create a Better Tomorrow.” Registration form will be ready by next week.

Submit Communic-8 articles now.

Next DEC meeting October 3, 2009. Dori Drummond will announce the location.

Adjourn

Lydia Pochedly, Area 16 Governor, moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Carole Breckner, Division A Governor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Yates, District Secretary