



## **District 10 District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for July 29, 2021**

District 10's District Executive Meeting (DEC) convened virtually on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm ET with the following leaders present:

DD District Director Patricia Spayer, DTM  
PQD Program Quality Director Robert Churilla, DTM  
CGD Club Growth Director Sandra Orland, EC5  
PRM Public Relations Manager April Ware, MS3  
FM Finance Manager Preeti Venkataramani, SR5  
IPDD Immediate Past District Director Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM

CDivD Central Division Director Andrea Wells, PM5  
EDivD Eastern Division Director Tracey Touma, TC4  
NDivD Northern Division Director Peter Shelling, DTM  
SDivD Southern Division Director Catherine Peterson, DTM  
WDivD Western Division Director Mike Arthur, EC4  
AD10 A10 Area Director Sundari Chilukuri, PM2  
AD11 A11 Area Director Malcolm Tsung, IP1  
AD20 A20 Area Director Molly Ketcham, LD3  
AD21 A21 Area Director Danay Johnson, EH1  
AD23 A23 Area Director Zahirah Suddeth  
AD54 A54 Area Director Deonna Taylor, DTM  
AD30 A30 Area Director Larry Goldsmith, DTM  
AD40 A40 Area Director Emily Szabo, PM2  
AD41 A41 Area Director Kimberly Kochevar, IP5  
CC Data Analysis and Credentials Chair Dan Minder, DTM (Non-Voting)

Registered but absent leader(s): A22 Area Director Angela Ventura, VC1

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

- DD provided a pre-meeting notification at 7:00pm and started the meeting at 7:03pm. She welcomed and congratulated the new leaders. She also emphasized that “fun” was a key theme for the upcoming year during an “un-Predictable” year.
- PQD then emphasized “Persistence” through creativity and innovation in the new year.
- CGD highlighted the need for “Passion” by inviting others to Toastmasters, ensuring the best experiences, and chartering new clubs.
- IPDD spoke of “Purpose” on club mission and provided a quote for inspiration: “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success.” – *Henry Ford*. She emphasized leaning on new and returning leaders.

### District Mission

CGD led reading of the district mission.

### Attendance Virtual Roll Call

DD invited CC to determine if virtual role call necessary. Dan reported that only one registered participant was absent and no further action required.

### Credentials Report

CC reported that 21 members represented the district, and that a simple majority (11 members) would meet requirements for quorum. There were no objections to the Credentials Report thereby adopting the report.

### Contest Discussion

DD provided background to the upcoming vote that would determine focused contests at area, division, and district levels would be held in-person or virtually. She shared TI's guideline that if the district adopted in-person contests, TI allowed the Trio to determine, based on local COVID19 status, whether it would be necessary to transition back to virtual contests, at any time. If DEC adopted online contests tonight, there was no option to change back to in-person during this program year.

PQD provided additional background, NE Ohio pandemic status, and also general comments on this dynamic situation.

PQD and DD emphasized each voter should take into consideration the health and safety of members.

The floor opened for comments in-favor or against on-line area, division, and district contests, allowing for both pro and con position statements as well as clarification questions. Each speaker received 1-2 minutes to present. DD offered in-favor positions to speak first, and declared intention to end with opposition, so that both sides received equal time.

- AD10 asked if TI has determined World Champion of Public Speaking format. DD answered that TI had not revealed a decision.
- EDivD asked if contests held in-person, were there limitations on number of people or related matters. DD indicated venues would need to answer those questions.
- WDivD asked to repeat the voting ballot question and options. DD responded.
- WDivD also asked if it was possible to have contestants meet in-person but broadcast the relevant contest to a broader audience. PQD answered that the outcome depended on the venue and that he knew of some clubs unable to conduct hybrid meetings (in-person and virtual elements) due to venue capacity or other limitations.
- NDivD spoke in-favor of in-person contests. He highlighted that there was flexibility for a decision to be made later for virtual, where the reciprocal was not true. He talked about many who were tired of virtual.
- FM presented case for virtual contests. She highlighted that the district had momentum with virtual events and can continue to improve on the current production quality. With virtual, she pointed out that there were more volunteers to support contests than in-person, and to think of this as a 3-year hiatus from the norm, returning back to normal later.
- AD54 requested clarification for club contests. DD indicated the DEC vote only affected area, division, and district contests. Clubs would determine their format.
- AD54 spoke in-favor of in-person contests. It seemed to make sense to her that it may be disingenuous by not allowing an option later, beginning with a virtual option first, then changing to the alternative later.
- AD10 presented that by being all virtual in contests, the district has an opportunity to maintain safety, that Toastmasters is not a potential contributor to the COVID19, an opportunity to explore technical skills further, and also become more entertaining virtually.
- AD54 asked if the district conference was held in-person, how would the district handle an online contests. PQD responded that likely the conference would then be hybrid format or the contest separated from the conference.

District Business – Voting

DD indicated a motion was necessary to begin the voting process. CGD made a motion to begin the vote. SDivD seconded the motion. DD requested “I’s” and the motion carried. DD then asked CC to describe the voting process. Once security, anonymity, administration details covered, he sent ballots at 7:45pm ET.

During voting, AD23 experienced a technical issue that was resolved.

At 7:50pm, CC declared a majority of DEC members had completed voting and stopped the process. He shared the results: 68.4% of votes were in-favor of virtual area, division, and district contests during this Toastmasters program year.

Election Results for DEC Vote on Holding Virtual or In-Person Contests		
Which contest venues do you prefer? *****		
Option	Votes	Percentage
I vote to hold the 2021-2022 area, division, and district speech contests <b>IN-PERSON</b>	6	31.6%
I vote to hold the 2021-2022 area, division, and district speech contests <b>VIRTUALLY</b>	13	68.4%

DD thanked attendees for voting and helping with the process.

Announcement

DD covered other announcements and events for District 10 and opened the floor for the same.

Adjournment

DD adjourned meeting on time.

Meeting Minutes Recorded and Reviewed By:  
April Ware, Public Relations Manager  
Tricia Spayer, District Director