2024 District 10

District Council Meeting (DCM) (1st of 2)
September 28, 2024

Presiding

District Director, Andrea Wells, PM5, LD5, SR5

The District 10 District Council meeting convened on September 28, 2024, 9:00 am with the following District Leaders present:

District Director	Andrea Wells, PM5, LD5, SR5
Club Growth Director	Susan Russell
Immediate Past District Director	Sandra Orland, DTM
Public Relations Manager	Diane Jackson
Administration Manager	Karen Gabrielse
Southern Division Director	Valerie Costa
Western Division Director	Deonna Moore Taylor, DTM
Central Division Director	Stephanie Hill
Northern Division Director	Deborah Bonner, DTM
Area 12 Director	Leo Lampien (arrived after quorum established)
Area 20 Director	Angela Ventura
Area 21 Director	Stacie Jacobson
Area 32 Director	Allison Blakeman
Area 53 Director	Marcus Phillips
Area 40 Director	William McGee
Area 41 Director	James Turski
Parliamentarian (non-voting)	Bill Kirby
Tech Chair (non-voting)	Tricia Spayer

Megan Davison,Club President 3526 Aerospace Toastmasters Club
Todd Taylor,Club VP Education 151 Akron Toastmasters
Tracey Touma,Club VP Education 6813415 CCAC Toastmasters
Madhura Rajapakshe,Club President 3613 Chagrin Valley Toastmasters
Nancy Temple,Club VP Education 7039 Chardon Toastmasters
Evelyn Peterson,Club President 5923 Citadel of Hope Toastmasters
Robbie Nelson-Milledge,Club VP Education 5923 Citadel of Hope Toastmasters
Mary Harnegie,Club VP Education 2136004 Cleveland Clinic Finance Division
William Tarter Jr.,Club President 351 Cleveland Club
Valerie Costa,Club President 2771855 Colorful Language
Karen Gabrielse,Club VP Education 2771855 Colorful Language
Jenilee Taylor,Club President 2878837 Cuyahoga Falls Toastmasters
Maureen Bachman,Club VP Education 2878837 Cuyahoga Falls Toastmasters
Andrea Wells,Club VP Education 3968072 CWRU Spartans Toastmasters Club
Stephanie Hill,Club VP Education 7836856 Diversity 4 Success Toastmasters
Deborah Bonner,Club VP Education 1024709 East Cleveland Toastmasters

Robbie Nelson-Milledge,Club President 934375 Eastside Advanced Toastmasters Club
Amy Fahnestock,Club VP Education 934375 Eastside Advanced Toastmasters Club
Lisa Assimiou,Club President 6500 Eastside Toastmasters Club 6500
Diane Jackson,Club VP Education 6500 Eastside Toastmasters Club 6500
Monete Morris,Club President 6779965 FedOrators
Michael Pechalk,Club President 9124 Impact Toastmasters Club 9124
Jason Balk,Club VP Education 9124 Impact Toastmasters Club 9124
Ai Loan Nguyen,Club VP Education 935345 Independence Club
Sandra Orland,Club President 1424 Independently Speaking Club
Gregory Danko,Club VP Education 1424 Independently Speaking Club
Maria Gonzalez-Soto,Club President 1404585 Let It Flow
Debbie Stark,Club President 2020 Marion Toastmasters Club
Debbie Stark,Club VP Education 2020 Marion Toastmasters Club
Sandra Orland,Club President 7908934 Maverick Advanced Toastmasters Online
Patricia White,Club President 941 Medina Toastmasters Club
Lisa Dy,Club President 533 Parker SpeakEasies Club
Leo Zimmerman,Club President 1179881 Playhouse Square Toastmasters
Stephanie Hill,Club President 4667023 Progressive Insurance Advanced Toastmasters Club
Sravanthi Vallampati,Club President 1171244 Progressive Messengers
Sravanthi Vallampati,Club President 7687237 Speak To Lead Toastmasters
Tarra Lee,Club President 1073866 STERIS Toastmasters Club
William McGee,Club VP Education 2917 Talk of the Town Club
Patricia Redding,Club President 7902363 The Comedy Club
Sharon Stadul,Club VP Education 7902363 The Comedy Club
Lisa Brown,Club President 6512141 The Toastmasters of National Interstate
Deborah Bonner,Club President 1383972 Top of the Town Advanced Club
Marcus Phillips,Club VP Education 1383972 Top of the Town Advanced Club
Cheryl Fink ,Club VP Education 3577689 Warren Toastmasters
Amy Fahnestock,Club President 2502 Western Reserve Club
Loren Dill,Club VP Education 497 Westlake Toastmasters #497
Louise Debell,Club VP Education 5616126 Westlake Unity Toastmasters
Mark Banas,Club President 7262 Westside Advanced Club
Anna Ho,Club VP Education 7262 Westside Advanced Club
Therese Stadul,Club President 3578 Word Warriors
Sharon Stadul,Club VP Education 3578 Word Warriors

Members were asked to log on early for attendance and credentialing purposes.

District Director Andrea Wells called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

District Mission – IPDD Sandra Orland, DTM

Sandra reviewed the district mission and reiterated the ways that the district is available to support our clubs.

Credential Verification – Tricia Spayer, Sandra Orland, and Susan Russell

There are 56 eligible clubs in D10. 2 votes per club = 106. Need 1/3 Club Presidents and VPEs = 51. Have 57 present. Quorum is met. Additional votes to DEC members. Total of 72 votes today. Simple majority is 37 votes.

Agenda Review & Adoption of Agenda - District Director Andrea Wells

Andrea reviewed the agenda. IPDD Sandra Orland asked if the IPDD report was not being required during this meeting. This was acknowledged as an error and has been added to the agenda after the District Director report.

Dr. Deonna Moore Taylor, Western Division Director motioned to accept the amended agenda.

Club President 351 Cleveland Club William Tarter 2nded the motion.

Without objection – the agenda was approved.

Club Growth Director Susan Russell moved to accept the minutes from the May 9 meeting.

VP Education 6500 Eastside Toastmasters Club 6500 Diane Jackson 2nded the motion.

Without objection – the minutes were accepted.

Voting Procedures: Presented by District Director Andrea Wells

Andrea Wells explained that most voting will be done by show of hands. The budget and club success plans would be voted on via Election Buddy.

Confirmation of Appointed District Leaders:

Western Division Director – Dr. Deonna Moore Taylor

Southern Division Director - Valerie Costa

Central Division Director – Stephanie Hill

Public Relations Manager – Diane Jackson

Administration Manager – Karen Gabrielse

Finance Manager – Merkisha Rush

Area Directors

- Area 11 - Leo J. Lampinen
- Area 20 - Angela Ventura
- Area 21 - Stacie Jacobsen
- Area 53 - Marcus Phillips
- Area 30 - Tonya Thompson
- Area 31 - Sylvan Jonas
- Area 32 - Allison Blakeman
- Area 40 - William McGee
- Area 41 - James Turski
- Area 42 - Aaron Schmidt

Club Growth Director Susan Russell moved to accept the district leaders.

Club President 7687237 Speak To Lead Toastmasters Sravanthi Vallampati 2nded motion.

Without objection – the appointed district leaders were accepted.

District Budget – Presented by Andrea Wells on behalf of Markeshia Rush

- Most funds come from membership renewals
- Planning on some fundraising
- Lodging is a bit over budget. There is not always under district control as the travel to the Trio is dictated by TI.
- Budgeted items for recognition and incentives
- Hall of Fame coming up – with small cost to help offset cost of meals
- Administration costs
- Covering IPPD convention costs – part of budget
- TI is covering travel costs but district still needs to cover meals and other expenses
- IPPD Sandra Orland – asked about where the IPPD reimbursement was in the budget.
- Motion to accept the report of the budget from Western Division Director, Dr. Deonna Moore Taylor.
- Motion to second the motion from Jenilee Taylor, Club President 2878837 Cuyahoga Falls Toastmasters.

Review 2023 – 2024 Year end Audit Committee Report: Noberto Flores presented by recorded video

- Started by recognizing the Audit team
- Explained the purpose of the audit
- Results for the 2nd half of the year included information on how the committee looked at discrepancies
- Explained use of the credit card and where reconciliation was needed
- There were some delays in getting information from Toastmasters Internation – reducing the time available for review.
- Explained that Toastmasters International has ultimate control of many of the finance. Audit team needed to wait for TI responses on many items to complete report.
- Sharon Stadul, VPE 3578 Word Warriors made a motion to approve the Audit Committee report as presented by Noberto Flores.
- Maria Gonzalez-Soto,Club President 1404585 Let It Flow seconded the motion.
- With no objections, the report was accepted.

District Communication Plan: Diane Jackson – Public Relations Manager

- Focus on the open positions: looking for a Newsletter editor, Public Relations coordinator, and Graphic Designer.
- Interested people can nominate themselves.
- Working with Susan Russell and Andrea Wells to start a TikTok group starting with the What's My Why campaign starting on October 1st.
- Working to fix and clean up Instagram page.
- Weekly emails currently at an open rate of 36%. Goal is to get to 50%.
- 2,500 subscribers. 94% open emails from desktop computer.
- Update weekly email with links for additional information. Website team led by Tricia Spayer.

- Looking to include items like Fun Lab and feature trivia to make Weekly newsletters fun.
- Include a recognition corner or member spotlight.
- Patti Redding, Club President 7902363 The Comedy Club made a motion to accept the District Communication Plan report.
- Sharon Stadul, VPE 3578 Word Warriors seconded the motion to accept the plan.
- With no objections, the report was accepted.

District Success Plan: presented by District Director Andrea Wells

- Shared the composition of the District team. Many open positions and several changes due to recent resignations.
- Focus on TI core values: Respect, Integrity, Service, and Excellence.
- Requested area and division success plans to be shared with the District Trio.
- Keep communications within business hours or allow 24 hours for response.
- Looking for membership payment growth.
- Working on some clubs that are chartering, some clubs that are struggling, and some clubs that have closed.
- Leveraging open houses and Speechcraft. Believe Speechcraft can help provide an infusion of new membership into a club.
- Looking for club coaches. Need to complete a level 2 but the District leadership is willing to train you to prepare you for everything else.
- Pathways is preparing for the new launch that will make Pathways available on a tablet or a smartphone. Hope this will increase engagement. Approval process should also be easier.
- Looking for strategies to encourage members to become more involved with the District. There should be incentives to encourage members to get involved outside the club level.
- Maria Gonzalez-Soto,Club President 1404585 Let It Flow made a motion to accept the District Success Plan as presented by Andrea Wells.
- Deb Stark,Club President 2020 Marion Toastmasters Club seconded the motion to accept the District Success Plan.
- The District Success Plan will be voted on with the budget via Election Buddy.
- Vote was launched on Election Buddy with a vote on the District Budget and the District Success Plan.
- Both the District Budget and the District Success Plan were approved with a 94% approval.

District Marketing Plan: presented by Club Growth Director Susan Russell via recorded video.

- Looking at what has happened over the last 5 years
- 13 counties in the district have zero Toastmaster clubs
- Sandra Orland, DTM, Sravanthi Vallampati, and Sharon Stadul working on Club Growth team
- Several leads in progress
- Looking for a few more people to help with teams

Sharon Stadul, Club VP Education 3578 Word Warriors moved to accept District Marketing plan as presented

Western Division Director, Dr. Deonna Moore Taylor, DTM seconded the motion.
With no objections, this document was accepted as presented.

District Contest Mode:

- New rulebook – there are some changes.
- International Speech contest must be held **in person** at the area, division, and district level.
- Secondary part – Online contest is an option but must be virtual from area to district level.
- DEC decided they will not be doing an online contest. Humorous contest will be the topic for this year. Contestants can participate at club level either online or in person but area, division, and district must be held in person.
- Motion to accept the contest mode as presented Club President 351 Cleveland Club William Tarter.
- Motion to second – Jenilee Taylor, Club President 2878837 Cuyahoga Falls Toastmasters.
- Discussion: Cheryl Fink had a question whether the details were posted anywhere yet.
    - Andrea Wells replied that all the rules were listed in the Toastmaster rulebook but the details regarding the district contest will be posted on the District 10 website shortly after this meeting.
- Watch the weekly for details about the contest changes and rules.
- With no objections – the district contest mode was approved.

Profit and Loss – Quarter 4 Presented by Andrea Wells, District Director

- Added fundraising to offset costs for conferences and other events
- Want to spend money on recognition – reward people for their hard work
- IPPD Sandra Orland, DTM noted in the chat that a large variance was created because the 2023 – 2024 awards were not purchased as of June 30 but are accounted for in the accrual.
- Shared some of the other expenses – not always within control of the District.
- IPPD also shared in the chat that no one submitted for travel. The District Director and Finance Manager are continuing to work with Bill for his refund for last year in the accrual.

Director and Manager Reports

- **Public Relations – Diane Jackson**
    - Nothing to add beyond the District Communication Plan.
- **Club Growth Director – Susan Russell**
    - Nothing to add beyond the District Marketing Plan.
- **Program Quality Director – Presented by video**
    - Club officer training completed
    - 5 sessions completed by division directors and three Power Hour sessions – very well attended
    - 57 clubs achieving Round 1 training with 4 or more officers trained.
    - 4 of 5 Division Directors trained; 9 of 10 Area Directors trained
    - District 10 Conference will be held May 3rd in Broadview Heights, Ohio
- **District Director – Andrea Wells**
    - Openings for Logistics Manager, Parliamentarian, Credentials Chair, Audit Chair, Alignment Chair, Bookstore Manager, Recognition Chair, Club Extension Chair, 9 different Area Director positions
    - Angela Ventura asked if an area director can hold more than one area director position.

    - TI says they can only be assigned to one area.
- **Immediate Past District Director – Sandra Orland, DTM**
    - Serving as DLC chair. Still looking for someone from Western and Northern Divisions.
    - Not waiting until December for applications. No interviews until January but IPPD will be willing to meet with people before then.
    - Helping run District 10 Hall of Fame. October 26 from 10 – 3. Small charge to help with cost of meal and snacks.
    - Helping District Trio in any way that they need.
    - Working on Speechcraft opportunities
- **Central Division Director**
    - Nothing to report at this time.
- **Eastern Division Director –**
    - Nothing to report
- **Northern Division Director – Deborah Bonner, DTM**
    - Deborah has been visiting clubs
    - Still looking for a few Area Directors
    - Attended some Open Houses
    - Membership payments – still missing a few
- **Southern Division Director – Valerie Costa**
    - Made a trip to visit two prison clubs
    - Wants to hold some fundraisers to help us support our prison clubs
    - Full team of area directors – doing great work
    - Area visits going well
- **Western Division Director – Dr. Deonna Moore Taylor, DTM**
    - Full team of area directors
    - ADs have started visits
    - Planning on President Distinguished Division
    - Colorful Communications – already has 5 points on DCP and 34 members on roster
    - Thank you to Crossroads, Comedy Club, and Word Warriors for getting dues in early.
    - New Club – Pro Speakers of Northern Ohio
    - Plan is to retain and build
    - Host of the District Conference in 2025.
    - Build on the legacy that D10 has created. We can rebuild to help get back to 100 clubs.
    - Working on additional training for speech contests to ensure people know what they are doing.

New Business

- No new business for District Council.

Announcements

- Membership Dues renewal needs to be paid by September 30. Need at least 8 to keep your club in good standing.
- Pathways will be shutting down from October 9 – October 22nd. You will not have access to Pathways during this time or the ability to approve level completions.
- Register today for the Hall of Fame event.
- Encouraging advertising Toastmasters over the next few weeks as people attend other events.
- Introduction of International Director for Region 6 – Jenilee Taylor.
- Next District Council meeting May 1st. Times to be announced later.

IPPD Sandra Orland, DTM moved to accept the meeting date of May 1st.

President William Tarter seconded motion.

Western Division Director Dr. Deonna Moore Taylor moved to adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 pm.