

District 45

Annual District Council Meeting



District 45 Conference "Focus on Success"

Online via Zoom

May 14, 2022

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AGENDA – DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING



District 45 Annual Business Meeting
1:45 pm AT – May 14, 2022
Online Meeting

Call to Order	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Inspirational Opening	Lorelei Grecian, CC, CL, IP5, PI4
Reading of District Mission Statement	Brian Richards, DTM
Welcome & Opening Remarks	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Credentials Committee Report	Michael Thompson, DTM
Administration Manager's Report	Albert Cormier, EH5, MS5, PM2, SR1 Administration Manager
Confirmation of Appointed Officers	Heather Perkins, DTM District Director
Realignment Report	Jonathan Bohm, DTM
District Leader Committee Report	Candice Buell, DTM, PDG
Election of 2022 – 2023 District Officers	
Report of 2021-2022 Audit Committee	Angela Stoddart, CC, CL
Finance Manager Report	Ken Hublely, IP5 District Finance Manager
Division Director Reports	6 Divisions - 2 minutes each
Reports by Senior District Officers	2 minutes each
Unfinished Business	
New Business	
Announcements	
Date of Next DC Meetings	TBD Online Meeting
Adjournment	

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

Call to Order	District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, called the meeting to order at 10 am ET.
Inspirational Opening	Patricia Saucier, DTM, Area 5 Director, delivered the inspirational opening: <i>“No matter how bad things look, there’s always a train of rainbows.”</i>
Reading of District Mission Statement	Sarah Wright, PM5, SR1, Area 15 Director, delivered the District Mission statement.: <i>“We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.”</i>
Welcome and Opening remarks	District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, provided welcome and introductory remarks.
Credentials Committee Report	Michael Thompson, DTM, Credentials Chair, stated that, with 93 paid clubs, the number of potential club votes is 186 (for Presidents and VPEs). Quorum requires 62 members. We received 73 club ballots and 33 DEC ballots that members would attend the meeting. The total number of potential votes is 106, and quorum has been reached.
Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2021	District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, asked if there were any errors or additions to the minutes from the previous District Conference that was held on May 15, 2021. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as posted.
Confirmation of Appointed Officers	District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, presented the list of appointed for the 2021 – 2022 year. She stated that she was pleased that all appointments were filled by the end of June. She entertained a motion to accept the report. Moved by Andrew Chadbourne, ACS, CL, MS3, Area 24 Director, to accept the appointed officers list as presented. Seconded by Barbara Bell, DTM, VPE of Sackville Club. Motion was carried, and appointments were confirmed.
Audit Committee Repo	Included in page 7 of the DC packet, Cornelia Burhmann, ALB, ACB, IP3, Audit Committee Member, shared highlights of the Audit Committee Report.

Audit Committee Report (Continued)	District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, entertained a motion to adopt the Audit Committee Report. Moved by Maureen McIntosh, DTM, VPE of Speech Afire Advanced Toastmasters Club. Seconded by Gary Belding, DTM, President of Civil Speakers Club. Motion was carried, and the Audit Committee Report was accepted.
Division Director Reports	Each of the six Division Directors listed below presented a 2-minute report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Goodwin, DTM, PDG, Division G Director • Jim Kokocki, DTM, PIP, Division C Director • Kelley Demers, DTM, Division A Director • Madhu Kanji, DTM, Division E Director • Tom Macisso, CC, CL, MS5, SR2, Division B Director • Suzanne Weiss, ACB, CL, DL2, LD1, Division D Director
Senior District Leader Reports	The following SLT members delivered a 2-minute report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Doucette, ALB, ACB, MS5, IP5, LD5, Public Relations Manager • Sherry MacDonald, DTM, Club Growth Director • Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, ED5, PI5, DL4, Program Quality Director • Jonathan Bohm, DTM, Immediate Past District Director • Heather Perkins, DTM, District Director
District Success Plan	District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, stated that the DSP that was sent to TI on September 2 (well in advance of the September 30 th deadline) and has been uploaded on the D45 website. She entertained questions on the plan. There were none.
Proposed Budget 2021 - 2022	Ken Hubley, IP3, PI1, Finance Manager, moved that the 2021 – 2022 Budget be approved by the District 45 Council. District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, stated as the motion was approved by the DEC, the motion does not need a seconder. After questions on the budget, it was adopted without objection.
Unfinished Business	There was no unfinished business.

New Business	<p>Jonathan Bohm, Immediate Past District Director, moved that the Humorous Speech Contest only be held if the 2022 Annual District 45 Conference is held online. District Director Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, stated as the motion was approved by the DEC, the motion does not need a seconder.</p> <p>The motion was carried by a vote of 60 % in favor and 39 % against.</p>
Announcements	<p>Announcements were made just before the break at 11:20 am ET. Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, EC5, PI5, DL4, Program Quality Director, gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three out of our four January TLI dates have been finalized: January 12/13; January 17/18; and February 9/11. The fourth TLI session will be all day one Saturday in January and the date will be announced once we know when January leadership training will take place (so the two sessions do not overlap). • We have monthly webinars on the last Sunday of each month. Our first will be held on Sunday, September 26 at 7 PM ET and will consists of two sessions, one on Free Toast Host and one on easySpeak. <p>Anne Doucette, ALB, ACB, MS5, IP5, LD5, Public Relations Manager, has created a poster on our webinars and it has been posted to the D45 website.</p> <p>Andrew Chadbourne, ACS, CL, MS3, Area 24 Director, is our LinkedIn Committee Chair. He asked members to like the D45 LinkedIn page and shared the following link with members in chat: https://www.linkedin.com/company/district-45-toastmasters/</p> <p>Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA, District Director, announced that we will be celebrating Toastmasters Day on the evening of Friday, October 22, with a presentation by our newly elected Second Vice President Radhi Spear, DTM. More details are to come.</p>
Time and Place of Next DC Meeting	Date TBA – depends on when and where we have our Spring Conference (in-person or online)
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 11:40 ET.
Minutes Recorded	Minutes recorded by: Administration Manager Albert Cormier, MS5, EH5, PM1.

REALIGNMENT REPORT

During the 2021-2022 year District 45 felt the impact of two years of the global pandemic which has disrupted membership and club operations. As we emerge, it is clear that significant adjustments in the alignment of clubs are necessary to optimize the opportunities for member and club success in the future.

Changes in club alignment are subject to Toastmasters International Protocol 7.0: District Structure, 1. Club Assignment, paragraph D.

- I. Areas consist of four (4) to six (6) clubs; however, an Area may consist of three (3) clubs on July 1 only when an effort to charter a fourth club is in process.
- II. Under no circumstances may an Area have more than six (6) clubs on July 1.
- III. Advanced clubs may not be segregated into Areas.
- IV. Areas may be segregated by language, subject to the approval of the District Council.
- V. Districts assign clubs to Areas based upon:
 - a. Geographic proximity to other clubs
 - b. The ability of an Area Director to effectively provide service, without requiring the clubs to change how meetings are conducted to accommodate an Area Director visit
 - c. Club size and strength (e.g., paid, active, disbanding)
 - d. Prospective clubs and expected growth
 - e. The likelihood of eligibility for Distinguished programs (e.g., club base of the Area or Division)

Changes to division alignment are subject to the referenced Protocol, paragraph E.

- E. A Division must have a minimum of three (3) Areas.

The proposed changes in alignment are reflective of and in accord with the intent specified in paragraph D, which states: The best interests of the clubs and District are taken into consideration when assigning clubs to Areas.

Proposed Alignment Changes

Division A and Division G

Current Status: Division A: 17 clubs (2 dissolved in the current year)

Division G: 15 clubs (3 dissolved in the current year)

Proposed Changes: Division A currently includes 17 clubs in New Hampshire. Division G includes 15 clubs in Vermont and southern New Hampshire. It is recommended that clubs and areas be realigned within these two divisions to reflect the geography and club dispositions.

Area 7: Merrimasters Toastmasters Club 7926 has been dissolved. It is proposed that Exeter Speak Ups Club 8700 (Area 10) and Lakes Region Toastmasters 1421383 (Area 20) be moved into Area 7, and that this Area be moved from Division G to Division A.

Area 10: Ad Libs Club 7673 has dissolved, leaving only 3 clubs: Portsmouth Toastmasters 1094, Tri-City Toastmasters 7682, and Exeter Speak-Ups Club 8700. It is proposed that Area 10 be dissolved and these clubs be transferred to other existing areas.

Area 12: Transfer Mt. Washington Valley Toastmasters 3596556 from Area 20 to this Area.

Area 15: Transfer 4 clubs to this Area: Merrimack Motivators 4680273, Merrimakers 5409672, and Fidelity Orators 7294252 from the dissolved Area 25 and 1 club, Souhegan Speakers and Leadership Club 5785, from Area 7.

Area 16: Transfer Concord Toastmasters Club 6954 from Area 20 to this Area.

Area 20: It is proposed that this Area be transferred from Division A to Division G, with 2 clubs, Rutland Area Toastmasters 6205 and Toast of the Valley Club 9719, transferred from Area 15.

Area 25: It is proposed that this Area be dissolved and that the 3 clubs, Merrimack Motivators 4680273, Merrimakers 5409672, and Fidelity Orators 7294252, be transferred to Area 15.

Division B

Current Status: 16 Clubs (two clubs merged in current year)

Proposed Changes:

Area 5: Transfer 1 club, Toast of the Midcoast 7593337, to Area 14.

Area 14: Transfer 1 club, Toast of the Midcoast 7593337, from Area 5

Area 24: With the merging of two clubs, Running Hill Toastmasters Club 1246807 and Portland Harborside Toastmasters 4508624, in Area 24, it is recommended that 2 clubs from Area 10, Portsmouth Toastmasters 1094 and Tri-City Toastmasters 7682, be transferred to this Area.

Division C and Division E

Current Status: Division C: 12 clubs

Division E: 11 clubs (1 dissolved in the current year)

Proposed Changes: Division E cannot be sustained as the club count does not meet the standards for Area and Division requirements (Areas must have at least 4 clubs and Divisions must have at least 3 Areas). It is proposed that this Division be dissolved and the clubs be integrated into Division C.

Area 2: Transfer in two Area 3 clubs, Riverview Canusa Toastmasters Club 5382 and True Blue Toastmasters 6871, and move Area 2 to Division C.

Area 3: With only 3 clubs, it is proposed that this Area be dissolved and 2 clubs, Riverview Canusa Toastmasters Club 5382 and True Blue Toastmasters 6871, be moved to Area 2, and 1 club, Spotlight Toastmasters Club 9985, to Area 17.

Area 4: Transfer in one club, East Coast Online Advanced Toastmasters 7800586, from Area 11.

Area: 17: Transfer in one club, Spotlight Toastmasters Club 9985, from Area 3, and move the Area to Division C.

Division D

Current Status: 22 clubs (3 suspended in current year)

Proposed Changes:

Area 11: Transfer in one club, Creatively Speaking Toastmasters Halifax 2011635, from Area 21 and transfer East Coast Online Advanced Toastmasters 7800586 to Division C, Area 4.

Area 18: Transfer in two clubs, Creatively Speaking Toastmasters Halifax 2011635 and Sackville Club 4588, from Area 21.

Area 21: Two clubs have been suspended in current year. Dissolve the Area and transfer 2 clubs, Dartmouth Toastmasters 3119 and Sackville Club 4588, to Area 18, and transfer one club, Dartmouth Toastmasters Club 3119, to Area 11.

The following chart summarizes the newly proposed alignment within District 45:

Division A	
Area 7	Nashua-Hudson Club 2440; Live, Speak Or Die Toastmasters 4732112; Winning Speakers Club 3608; Exeter Speak-Ups Club 8700; and Lakes Region Toastmasters 1421383
Area 12	Horseshoe Pond Toastmasters Club 1383; Capital Toastmasters 2112; Karner Blue Toastmasters 983146; Pleasant Street Toastmasters 4093097; and Mt. Washington Valley Toastmasters 3596556
Area 16	TM of Manchester Club 4227; Amoskeag Better Communicators 7347; Millyard Toastmasters 902446; Penmen Toastmasters 5698897; and Concord Toastmasters Club 6954
Division B	
Area 5	Bangor Toastmasters Club 897; Ecotoasters Club 8518; Dirigo Leaders 1117322; and MDI Toastmasters 1557734
Area 6	Woodfords Toastmasters Club 816; Blueberry Hill Club 7268; Greater Portland Toastmasters Club 9558; and 2211 Toastmasters 1426328
Area 14	Kennebec Valley Toastmasters 1468; Brunswick Toastmasters 2156; The Maine Thing Advanced Toastmasters Club 7544422; The Impediments 7674627; and Toast of the Midcoast 7593337
Area 24	Running Hill/Portland Harborside Toastmasters Club 1246807; TD Legendary Leaders Toastmasters 3996351; Portsmouth Toastmasters 1094; Maine Fab Toastmasters 3207240; and Tri-City Toastmasters 7682

Division C	
Area 2	The Very Best Toastmasters 688; Arcadie du Grand Caraquet 1651483; Speech Afire Advanced Toastmasters Club 6787365; Riverview Canusa Toastmasters Club 5382; True Blue Toastmasters 6871; and Hub City Toastmasters Club 2173
Area 4	Saint John Club 1479; Harbourside Club 1843; NoonTalkers Toastmasters Club 940141; Rising Tide Toastmasters Club 6493141; and East Coast Online Advanced Toastmasters 7800586
Area 13	Fredericton Toastmasters Club 2204; Civil Speakers Club 6423; Rise and Shine Advanced Toastmasters 3349440; and River Valley Toastmasters 4373706
Area 17	Premiere Toastmasters Club 2738; Speak-Easy Toastmasters Club 3948; Confederation Club 4085; Charlottetown Toastmasters Breakfast Club 5585612; and Spotlight Toastmasters Club 9985
Area 19	Sussex Toastmasters Club 5386; Mid Day Toastmasters 3277975; Riverside Toastmasters 2672; and Beyond Toastmasters 7773523
Division D	
Area 1	Cape Breton Toastmasters 3285; Schooner Toastmasters Halifax 3978; Toast of the Coast Toastmasters Club 4592; George Burton Club 6022; and Dal Toastmasters 821874
Area 9	Sears-Halifax Club 1555; Spirit-Ed Toastmasters Club 5375; Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters Club 9307; Successfully Speaking Women 1327791; and Wolfville Toastmasters 2419498
Area 11	Yarmouth Toastmasters Club 4653; Annapolis Valley Toastmasters Club 8104; East Hants Toastmasters 6935109; Halifax Toastmasters At SMU 7302258; and Dartmouth Toastmasters Club 3119
Area 18	Cole Harbour Toastmasters 974612; Bedford Basin Toastmasters 3826192; Provincially Speaking Toastmasters 4577257; Sackville Club 4588; and Creatively Speaking Toastmasters Halifax 2011635
Division G	
Area 8	Savvy Speakers 1955; Toastmasters of Greater Burlington 4899; Dynamic Speakers Club 947592; Champ Masters 03368563; and Green Mountain Toastmasters 5550884
Area 15	BrattleMasters 1051632; Keene Toastmasters Club 1562; Souhegan Speakers and Leadership Club 5785; Merrimack Motivators 4680273; Merrimakers 5409672; and Fidelity Orators 7294252
Area 20	North Country Toastmasters 1431722; Rutland Area Toastmasters 6205; Toast Of The Valley Club 9719; and White Mountain Toastmasters Club 5122

Jonathan Bohm , DTM, PDD
2022-2023 District 45 Club Growth Director

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The DLC began team preparatory work in January. Communication between members of the DLC team was conducted via phone calls, email and Zoom meetings. All meetings were conducted via Zoom meetings. For our first task, we designed questions and selected from questions proposed by Toastmasters International and members of the DLC Committee for each office of District Director, Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, Public Relations Manager, and Division Director. All members submitted various questions.

Appointment of DLC Chair

Appointed to the DLC Chair by District Director, Heather Perkins, DTM, PRA, I assumed the role and fulfilled the roles and responsibilities expected to nominate a slate of candidates for consideration and election by the District Council.

As I proceeded, I ensured that all candidates were made aware of the responsibilities and duties required to serve as their prospective offices. It is my hope that all candidates and voters be well informed of the expectations once elected to office.

Building the DLC Team

After being appointed the role of DLC Chair, I read all of the materials available regarding the role and responsibilities. All members in the district are eligible to serve on the DLC Committee. I contacted potential committee members who had current club and area responsibilities as I felt they would have experience to bring to the process and to expose these committee members to possible future opportunities.

All our committee members have held several club and district offices and are currently serving in roles this year. The team members represent the Divisions of our District. In early December, our committee member from Division C unexpectedly had to resign. The member was replaced by another member from Division D.

Divisions in District 45. The DLC members are:

Division A – Kelley Demers, DTM

Division B – Dawna-Jean Turchon, DTM

Division D – Alan Idler, DTM

Division D – Anne Marie Drake, SR1

Division E – Subbi Mathur, DTM

Division G – Cindy Lee, IP3

DLC Chair - Candice Buell, DTM, PDG

Promotion of the Opportunities

To promote the opportunity for candidates, I spoke with Public Relations Manager, Anne Doucette, and last year's Chair, Jim Kokocki, who was a guiding mentor. Articles were submitted in December, January and February to the District 45 Newsletter and District 45 Website, and District Director, Heather Perkins hosted monthly meetings via Zoom with the Club Presidents.

In the December newsletter, I announced my appointment as DLC chair and indicated that I would be seeking a representative from each Division to serve with me on the DLC with the expected timelines and DLC tasks. My article expressed the personal benefits one receives from serving our District.

In the February newsletter, I announced the members who were selected for the DLC and that we would issue a call for candidates by the end of February. I also indicated that the DLC had issued the call for candidates in mid-January with a closing date of February 28th and also indicated that any member could nominate a candidate, who then need to accept the nomination and provide a completed officer release form and nomination form.

Call for Nominations

The DLC had issued the call for candidates in mid-January with the closing date February 28th. Once nominations closed, we began interviews. All candidates were asked several questions by each member of the DLC committee.

The DLC worked to interview and consider candidates for District office, in order to present a slate of candidates for consideration of voters at the May 2022 District 45 Business Meeting to be held at the District 45 Spring Conference. The voters are the members of the District Executive Council which includes all Club Presidents, and VP of Education and all current District Officers.

Interviewing Nominees

Interviews were held during the month of March. During each session, we conducted three or four interviews followed by a debrief and discussion. All candidates for each office were asked up to 15 questions.

On March 30, 2022, we met via Zoom to vote on each candidate.

Voting by the DLC

The DLC met for an hour via Zoom on March 30, 2022, one week after all final interviews. We proceeded in order from CGD, PQD, DD to Division Directors. Seven candidates were considered of which all were nominated. Each member of the DLC committee was permitted to present a brief case of each nominee which was followed by discussion, and then a vote. Comments were collected by the DLC Chair on the strengths and developmental opportunities to be given as feedback to the candidates.

DLC members considered nomination papers and group interviews conducted with each nominee over Zoom and observed leadership performance.

Nominees for May 2022

For District Director

Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, EC5, PI5, DL5

For Program Quality Director

Tom Macisso, MS5, SR5

For Club Growth Director (incomplete report)

Paul Coddington, DTM

For Public Relations Officer

Incomplete

For Division Director

A- Marcia Rogowsky, CC, ALB, MS1, VC4

B- Incomplete

C- Incomplete

D- Michael Lawlor, ACB, ALB, MS5, TC5

E- Antoine LeGresley, IP4

F- No Division

G- Susanne Melling, DTM

For positions noted as incomplete, a qualified member can run from the floor by providing written notice of intent to run to the District Director at least seven days prior to the election.

Managing DLC Logistics

All interviews and meetings were conducted via Zoom.

The DLC gathered questions suggested by committee members and the Toastmasters International website. Each DLC members asked three to four questions per candidate. All questions were submitted and approved by the DLC Chair. DLC members reviewed and scored all questions per candidate. This technique helped the DLC members to evaluate and rate the candidates.

Observations and Recommendations

1. A suggestion from last year's committee for Toastmasters WHQ stated that service as a Club President or VP-Education is a qualification requirement for all positions, yet this information is still not readily available to the DLC. We recommend asking candidates on the Officer Release form for the dates they last served in either or both roles.
2. We recommend that our incoming officers seek assistance and aid from the previous officer and attend all District training available.

Final Comments

The DLC committee for 2022 - 2023 is pleased to complete this task for the members of District 45. It is important to have solid, committed members to continue the success of our clubs that voters elect officers well prepared to serve our clubs and members.

As DLC Chair I thank District Director, Heather Perkins DTM, PRA for this opportunity. I wish to thank Kelley, Alan, DJ, Anne Marie, Subbi and Cindy for their strong efforts and commitment to our work.

Candice Buell, DTM, PDG
2022-2023 District 45 Leadership Committee Chair

2021 – 2022 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

District 45 Mid-Year Audit

The Audit Committee met on January 27, 2022 and February 7, 2022 via Zoom. The following members were present:

- Angela Stoddard: Audit Committee Chair
- Mark Gallant: Audit Committee Member
- Kemi Adebawale: Audit Committee Member
- Ken Hubley: District 45 Finance Manager

The Audit Committee reviewed the receipts and payments for the period July 2021 – December 2021 on the Concur system. The Committee confirmed that there were supporting documents for all transactions and that all transactions were reasonable and accurate. The Audit Committee also performed a policy review by confirming that all transactions were approved by the appropriate district leaders. The audit committee agreed the District followed TI procedures for approvals and kept good records. It was noted that the amount listed on Bills Register does not always match Profit and Loss report which related to the exchange rate and the frequency of when the system is updated, likely a timing difference of when the event was submitted and when it is posted. The Finance Manager shared the financial reports for the period July 2021 to December 2021 and the Audit Committee was satisfied with the reports.

Recommendations passed to SLT and TI.

1. Currency exchange should be calculated at the date of the transaction, rather than the date of submission.
2. Sympathy expense should be under Public Relations, rather than administration expense.

February 12, 2022
Angela Stoddard
District 45 Audit Committee Chair

DISTRICT 45 FINANCIAL REPORT – MARCH, 2022

District 45 Financial Report March 2022

Category	2021 – 2022 budget	Actual to Date (end of March)	Budget end of March	Variance
Membership Dues	29,090.00	24,800.86	24,507.00	293.86
Total Revenue	29,090.00	24,800.86	25,507.00	293.86
Education and Training	4,700.00	338.09	2,975.00	(2,636.91)
Marketing Outside Toastmasters	3,450.00	(113.23)	2,400.00	(2,513.23)
Club Growth	9,750.00	230.52	5,750.00	(5,519.48)
Public Relations	2,550.00	592.61	1,250.00	(657.39)
Recognition	5,410.00	2,485.52	3,590.00	(1,104.48)
Travel	3,000.00	509.91	1600.00	(1,090.09)
Lodging	2,640.00	107.14	540.00	(432.86)
Food and Meals	100.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
Speech Contest	500.00	0.00	350.00	(350.00)
Administration	1,749.00	1,576.40	1,367.70	208.70
Allocation Expense		1,090.89	1089.00	1.89
Total Expenses	58,149.00	6,817.85	21,011.70	(14,193.85)
Net income/(loss)	4,259.00	17,983.01	3,495.30	14,487.71

NOTES

Our membership revenue is now performing as budgeted. We will continue to focus on increasing membership and revenue.

We have a net income so far this year of 17,983.01, in part due to under expenditures in several areas.

The recognition variance was caused by several incentives budgeted for but not been claimed yet. We expect them to be claimed in the latter half of 2022.

The Club Growth and Marketing Outside Toastmasters variances will be reduced once some of the plans for these areas are implemented in the second half of the year.

Recognition expense variance was caused due to a credit being carried over from last year.

The other variances are minimal.

Overall, the District is in good financial shape.

Ken Hubley, IP5, PI1
Finance Manager

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Director – Heather Perkins, DTM, PDG, PRA

When you dream alone, it remains just a dream; when you dream together it is the beginning of a new reality. – Brazilian Proverb

We are slowly moving toward that new reality in District 45. You, the members, have stepped forward with teamwork, effective evaluation and engagement to make the dream a reality. We started off slowly with recruiting new members but have been gaining momentum since January. We are looking for an increase of average club size (based on December 31, 2021 figures) of 10%. This will earn us the District Club Strength Award from Toastmasters International. We only need another 100 new members. This can be done.

To reach our goal of 40 Distinguished clubs, a lot of effort is needed by clubs. Distinguished status is the minimum that each club should be striving for. Will it be easy? No. Can it be done? Yes!! Keep the focus on recruitment and educational achievements and you may be surprised at what you can accomplish.

Have we met all our District goals? Of course not, but we have accomplished many great things this year. Our Senior Leadership Team continued the successful peer calls, giving club officers the opportunity to engage and work with a team of peers to meet the challenges they have faced. We have continued to improve our website and social media involvement. We held our first-ever Toastmasters Day event along with our educational and enjoyable Fall Extravaganza. We have continued to offer learning opportunities through our webinars and have instituted Pathways educational sessions.

All that has been accomplished would not be possible without the efforts of our members, our club officers and our District leaders. In the fall, our Area Directors completed all their official visits on time and most official visits have been conducted this spring. More Area Directors are holding regular Area Council meetings, and all held successful Area contests. They have attended monthly DEC meetings and participated in mid-year training as well as being instrumental in ensuring that our TLIs ran smoothly. All this is testament to their commitment to District success. The Division Directors led this team of dedicated Area Directors, holding regular Division Council meetings and supporting the Area Directors.

Most importantly, I give credit to the Senior Leadership Team of Crystal Cobb, Jonathan Bohm, Anne Doucette, Ken Hubley and Albert Cormier. All have contributed countless hours to turn dreams into reality. By working together as a team, we have been able to develop innovative approaches this year as well as considering ones for subsequent years. Without their efforts, our success would not be possible.

Through teamwork, engagement and effective evaluation, collectively we have created the opportunities for **every member and every club to achieve success.**

Program Quality Director – Crystal Cobb, CC, CL, EC5, PI5, DL5

I am truly inspired by the members in our District. We all know that Zoom fatigue is real and some of us desperately miss meeting in person, but we did not let this hold us back! We have had a full year of learning and growing together through workshops, webinars, peer calls, Pathways Therapy and Toastmasters Learning Institute (TLI) sessions.

I know some of our members are still grasping the navigation of Pathways Basecamp and exploring all Pathways has to offer, but I am pleased to say that we have had 528 educational awards completed between July 1st and April 1st inclusive. What is very encouraging is that of the 528 awards, 56 of those are for Level 5 in a Path! This is no small feat and tells me that members are embracing the opportunities and working the education program. We have also had eight members complete the Pathways Mentor Program! If you haven't started this yet, I highly recommend it (note: you need to complete Level 2 in any path to access the mentor program).

Over the course of this year, the Hybrid Meeting Committee presented a panel discussion on best practices and pulled together resources for clubs who are thinking about hosting hybrid meetings. Thank you to the committee for your time and effort to help people start thinking about hybrid meetings and how it might work for their club. Hybrid meetings will be a bit different for everyone, depending on your location and number of people in attendance. Be patient as you learn what works best for your club and your members!

I also had the pleasure of working with the Pathways Committee to host Pathways Therapy sessions for our members. These sessions had detailed information about navigating pathways, possible project ideas and Q&A sessions so members could learn more about the education program. As Toastmasters International works to improve the experience in Basecamp, we will continue to work together to educate members about Pathways and all it has to offer!

As I look back at all we have accomplished this year, I am in awe that we have so many people willing to step up and help wherever they are needed. The education portfolio is exciting and full of opportunities for members to learn and grow. I am sure you have heard me say it time and time again, but I must push this point– “use it as a project”. When you are volunteering outside your club, figure out how you can work it into one of your Pathways projects. Don't speak for free!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your PQD for this year. It has been my pleasure to work with members and celebrate all the success we have accomplished. Just because it's conference time, doesn't mean it's time to let off the gas. We still have another month of this Toastmaster year, so keep learning and growing!

Club Growth Director – Jonathan Bohm, DTM

Following two Toastmasters years of declining membership, it was critical that this year we focus on rebuilding out weakened clubs. The decline was exacerbated by the consequences of the global pandemic, with worldwide and District implications. In Toastmasters, as in our lives these past two years, we have struggled. But As Winston Churchill said, “It is the courage to continue that counts.”

This year, we developed and promoted a series of incentives designed to encourage and reward new thinking on membership growth. To that end, we have seen inklings of success. Although we have lost clubs, we are beginning to see a turnaround. Membership growth in the last half of the year has improved relative to last year. While we continue to see a decline, the trend suggests renewed interest in Toastmasters and improving membership numbers.

We have initiated a program to create greater awareness of Toastmasters, contacting businesses and professional organizations with information about who we are and where local clubs can be found. This ongoing effort should have long-term if not immediate payoffs as it generates interest and promotes our remarkable educational program.

I want to thank the Club Growth team for their contributions to District 45 this year, including Rhea Hamilton, Suzanne Melling, Elise Thorsen and Angela Chute. Their individual efforts have moved us toward a collective progress, strengthening our clubs as we strive for growth and success.

Serving as Club Growth Director has been a remarkable opportunity and I have grown and gained from working with the Senior Leadership team this year. Words are inadequate to express my gratitude for their confidence and support.

Club growth is a constantly evolving process, requiring shared, courageous commitment to keep building and strengthening our clubs. I am confident that the current trends bode well for continuing improvement and moving to success.

Public Relations Manager – Anne Doucette, ALB, ACB, DL5, MS5, IP5, LD5

It has been quite the year! While some clubs are still adjusting to meeting virtually, others have moved on to meeting in a hybrid format or all in-person. No matter what, it has been a learning year for all of us. It was definitely a learning experience for me serving as your Public Relations Manager. There has been a lot on the go this year with regards to publicity.

The Website is going through a lot of changes, and there are still changes to be made. I want the Website to be the place for members to go to find out what is going on in the District, as well as information that can help them achieve their individual goals, as well as help clubs grow and become successful. A Dates to Remember and an Announcement section were added on the front page to allow easy access to the latest news. Weekly Blogs from the District Senior Leadership team provide tips and tricks to help members and clubs. A Club Growth section has been added with additional information to follow in the coming weeks. We will be adding tools to help you track your educational journey and will add a list of clubs in the District with contact details. David Phillips and Patrick Schilf have been a HUGE help with updating the Website and I thank them for their help. The Website will always be a living document as we continue to add more information to better serve you.

Our monthly newsletter has been full of interesting articles. Many clubs have been sharing article and we love hearing the news. Keep on sharing! Thank you to our newsletter editor Reese Eskridge for his dedication and hard work, as well as to our francophone translators and editors. It has been so much fun to be able to read the newsletter in French and in English.

We had a focus of increasing engagement on social media and have been pretty active, mainly on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook Chair, Sarah Greening, and I created a robust posting schedule to share information with members and increase member engagement. Thank you Sarah for your help! A LinkedIn page has been created, although I do need to spend more time building this page. It was also important for me to create a space for the French Toastmasters to connect with each other and share information. A new Facebook Group has been created: le District 45 de Toastmasters International. All are welcome to check it out.

We have been actively posting videos on our YouTube channel and sharing them on the Website and/or Facebook.

Monthly Vice President Public Relations (VPPR) peer calls have been interactive and full of information. These calls gave VPPRs the opportunity to network and learn from each other.

When I first joined Toastmasters, I joined hesitantly, not sure if Toastmasters was for me as I was so shy and quiet. However, in the past five years, I have learned and grown so much that I wanted to give back, I wanted to help members and clubs the same way many of you have helped me these past five years! It has been an active year, but it has been a fun year! I enjoyed my year as your Public Relations Manager and I thank you all for your support and encouragement. It has been a pleasure to serve the members of District 45.

Well done on a fantastic year!

Immediate Past District Director– Jonathan Bohm, DTM

Serving as Immediate Past District Director is a wonderful opportunity for reflection and the pleasure of observing the new team's goals. It is not however just a prone position, and I want to thank this year's Senior Leadership Team for involving me an active participant.

One of the major tasks for the IPDD is the Alignment Report. Every year, the District must analyze the current organization and disposition of clubs that make up our Areas and Divisions. After the two years of significant unsettlement caused by the global pandemic, this year's analysis yielded major changes. These were proposed after much thought and concern, and designed to optimize the potential for success in the coming year.

As I move out of District leadership, I find myself as committed to our District 45 as the day I started as PRM five years ago. I thank everyone for the confidence you have shown by electing me over the years.

REPORTS FROM DIVISION AND AREA GOVERNORS

Division A Director - Kelley Demers, DTM

This year has certainly kept us on our toes! As we have maneuvered through our second year of virtual meetings (aka COVID-19), we have begun to crest over to the other side with some clubs beginning to host hybrid meetings.

Like so many of the clubs across the District, Division A has struggled to maintain and grow membership. Although there are three clubs not renewing this year, Amoskeag Better Communicators worked hard and was successful in reviving their advanced club. Six of the 19 clubs in the division increased membership for the second half of the year. There is still time to grow!

In an attempt to spread the word about Toastmasters within the state of New Hampshire, Division A held their first ever New Hampshire Invitational Toastmasters virtual Demo meeting. We had quite a few participate, even after being unexpectedly interrupted. We had two news articles written about Toastmasters in two different local newspapers (NH Union Leader, and The Laker) spotlighting how Toastmasters can and has helped many strengthening their speaking and leadership skills.

Club visits were completed the first half of the year with the second half of the year's visits either already completed or scheduled. TLI's were well attended by officers as well.

This Toastmaster year would not have been as successful as it was without the strong team of Area Directors. Not only did they support their clubs, we all worked and rallied together to help where needed, whether at TLI's or at the many speech contests held this spring.

A huge thank you to Area 10 Director Sam Boduch, Area 12 Director Deb Kumpf, DTM, Area 16 Director Marcia Rogowski, and Area 20 Director Cindy Sarvai. I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with this year! I look forward to continued growth and greatness from Division A in the coming year.

Area 10 Director - Sam Boduch

Area 10 is cruising into spring. Three clubs sent contestants to the Division A contest: Patrick Murphy from Tri-City Toastmasters and Heidi Rolston from Portsmouth Toastmasters competed in the Table Topics event and Lisa Warner from Exeter Speakups competed in the International Speech Contest.

While membership continues to be a challenge, club open houses are showing promise of new growth.

Area 12 Director - Deb Kumpf, DTM

At the start of the 2021 -2022 year, Area 12 consisted of six open, community clubs in Concord, NH which meet at various times on different days. After very low membership, one club was suspended in October, 2021 and another club has decided not to renew in April, 2022 – this brings the Area down to four clubs. The remaining clubs are dealing with membership struggles to varying degrees. Two clubs have lower membership now than their base level. Happily, two other clubs have increased their membership this year. One of the clubs has fully transitioned to a hybrid meeting format; another has just found a new meeting location and will be transitioning; the others are still virtual-only at this time.

Along with Area 16, we held a successful joint-area contest in March. We were happy to have the winner of the Division A Table Topics Contest be our Area 12 Representative and wish her luck at the District 45 Contest.

Area 16 Director - Marcia Rogowsky, CC, ALB, MS1, VC4

Area 16 consists of four clubs all based in Manchester, NH; all four are community clubs. Two clubs continue to work in Pathways and have achieved enough points to be become Distinguished, but they missed the membership requirement. The ability to retain members is proving to be a barrier to meeting the membership requirement of Distinguished Club Status. A third club has successfully increased its membership to eight to avoid suspension. That club is actively engaged in increasing its membership in hopes to obtain Distinguished Club status by June. The final club is struggling. It has adopted a hybrid meeting format and continues to attract guests. Unfortunately, for this renewal period, it has fallen below eight members. The club continues to meet on a regular schedule.

Area 20 Director - Cindy Sarvai, CC, CL, MS5, EC5, DL5, PM5

Area 20 consists of five clubs; all clubs are community clubs, at least one of which is dealing with membership struggles and could use club coaches to assist in retrieving more membership. The loss of membership is perceived to be due to the online presence of the meetings versus in-person participation. Clubs are now changing to hybrid meeting format where more membership opportunities await! Three clubs within Area 20 are in healthy club standing – two at Distinguished Club level and one at Select Distinguished at this present time. To date, I have competed four of the five official visits, with five unofficial visits already submitted. Through monthly Area 20 officer meetings, I have shared ideas, communicated Division events and upcoming announcements and more importantly – used this time as a touch point to stay connected with the clubs.

Division B Director - Tom Macisso, MS5, SR5

Fighting through many challenges and significant hurdles, Division B has fought its way up off the canvas - going from last place to near the top division in District 45! This was accomplished by increased collaboration and communication between the members of Northern/Central Maine and the clubs south of Portland. Division B had increases in Pathways participation and TLI attendance, but we still have more work to do so more members will be fully engaged in Toastmaster Education. Our increased emphasis on recruiting has helped us revitalize several clubs who had been struggling. Division B has been fortunate to have very strong mentors who have encouraged, coached, and educated newer members. They are the first to congratulate them when they have reached a level, completed a path or taken on a club leadership role.

Area 5 Director - Patricia Saucier, CC, CL, MS5, SR5

Area 5 consists of five clubs; one is a corporate club; the other four clubs are all community clubs, three of which have not all fully renewed membership yet and one which only has the eight-member minimum and needs a coach (but does not want one). One of the clubs is in the Bar Harbor area; one is in Bangor; two clubs are in Belfast; and the one with serious membership issues is in Augusta. Despite some challenges in Area 5 it looks like 2021 - 2022 has been a very productive year. Two of the clubs will obtain Distinguished status, and one of the clubs will obtain Select Distinguished status. I am hoping that we can help one of the clubs that is struggling with membership issues build their membership up to more sustainable levels. I am hoping that one of the clubs, who is not struggling with membership issues, will be Distinguished by June 30, 2022. I am encouraged by some of the changes that have been implemented by some of the clubs.

Area 6 Director - Bill Bruns, DTM

Area 6 in Division B consists of four clubs; one is a successful corporate club and three are community-based Toastmasters clubs. All four clubs are in the Greater Portland area and are in the process of transitioning back to in-person meetings and hybrid meetings. A member of Blueberry Hill completed a High Performance Leadership project on streamlining hybrid meetings, which they plan to share with the Area, Division, and District. Three of four clubs are paid, and one club, fell short, but has several leads to get up to eight paid members by the end of the Toastmaster year. Area 6 has a lot of talent and with some effort in Pathways, all four clubs can see Distinguished Club status within the year.

Area 14 Director - Dawna-Jean (DJ) Turchon, DTM

Area 14 consists of four clubs: three community clubs and one corporate club. Of the three community clubs, one is an advanced club. One club will reach Distinguished status by the end of the year, and the other two community clubs are on track to achieve President's Distinguished status. The corporate club has some issues but will be a club in good standing. They are looking into annual membership renewals since the company pays for the members. Area 14 has had two area "soirees" and has the third one planned at the end of May. Members from all four clubs participated and said it was a great to see and hear members from other clubs. Area 14 is a strong area with members willing to do what needs to be done to keep the clubs strong.

Area 24 Director – Vacant Role

Despite several obstacles and significant challenges such as losing their Area Director halfway through the Toastmaster year, Area 24 has shown resilience and fortitude. Thanks to some veteran club members, the four clubs in Area 24 have remained clubs in good standing. Two of the clubs in this area have had success with holding joint meetings; in fact, this has been so successful that these two clubs are beginning the process of merging into one club. Some recommended improvements for Area 24 include giving more Pathway speeches. A heightened emphasis on recruiting new members along with retaining existing ones would serve this area well.

Division C Director - Jim Kokocki, DTM, PIP

Division C has had a successful year. Sadly, we lost our club At McCain Foods, one of the largest producers of frozen foods in the world. However when a club ceases to meet the needs of its members, the club will cease to exist.

Our remaining 12 clubs are focused on member needs and are having good success. At the time of writing, we expect half of our clubs in each Area to become Distinguished, and each Area to be Distinguished. I applaud the leaders involved for setting a goal, communicating the goal, and working to achieve it. Our Noontalkers club at the Canada Revenue Agency in Saint John has had challenges meeting during the pandemic but club leadership has worked hard to keep the club viable.

During February and March, when we should have been promoting and supporting the Talk Up Toastmasters campaign to enable membership growth, my Area and Division team spent an inordinate amount of effort organizing three speech contests and finding judges from a membership base that has shrunk during the pandemic. I understand the enthusiasm that some members have to want to see several contests each year; however, it has been difficult to draw volunteers from those members who wish to see several contests. I suggest the District seriously consider reducing the number of contests, reducing the time and effort Area and Division leaders direct towards these events. Instead, the District needs to direct energy towards helping clubs promote themselves to draw in guests and add new members enabling them to attain their Distinguished Club goals

Thank you to Area 13 Director Subbi Mathur, DTM, PRA, Area 19 Director Manju Basnet, MS5, PM5, and Area 4 Director Kathi Zwicker, PM5, DL4.

Area 4 Director - Kathi Zwicker, PM5, DL4

The four area clubs are progressing well. As with all Toastmasters clubs, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented some challenges. Members are missing the in-person connection. On the other hand, it has also produced some unexpected bonuses as Zoom meetings have made it easier for guests to appear from faraway places. Time zone differences have allowed those looking to join a club that meets in non-regular times in their resident country to find our Saint John area club's meeting times convenient.

A recommendation to the clubs is that they all work together to create a wider visibility by setting up displays booths at business, seniors, and volunteer expos. The Harbourside club members suggested the clubs work together to offer Speechcraft at "ConnexionWorks," which is the traditional physical meeting space of all three clubs. The space offers hybrid meeting equipment which the clubs may take advantage of when their in person meetings resume.

Area 13 Director - Subbi Mathur, DTM, PRA

Area 13 lost one club right before the year started. The four other clubs in this Area are fully paid for this term. All of them will attain Distinguished status except for River Valley Toastmasters which needs two additional members. These clubs actively build their numbers with membership building events; Fredericton Toastmasters held a special 50th anniversary club event while Rise and Shine Toastmasters invited a celebrity to speak at one of their meetings. All clubs have updated Facebook pages and websites. Their meetings are exciting with their focus on converting guests to new members. This includes having a strong mentorship program in place. We had strong representation at the three speech contests, both at the Area and Division level.

I am proud of Area 13. This is a strong Area, and it has strong leaders. We ought to encourage members to seek leadership roles beyond the club level. Many of the club leaders have great ideas for membership building and holding interesting meetings. Area Council meetings have been well attended with active participation. Thank you, Area 13 clubs for your support and encouragement. Thank you, Division Director Jim Kokocki, DTM, PIP, for your caring leadership and guidance. We are lucky.

Area 19 Director - Manju Basnet, MS4, PM4

Area 19 consists of four clubs. One club, Sussex Toastmasters, was struggling with growing their membership, but they took the initiative and recruited four members, which helped them earn an incentive from District 45. Likewise, another club, Mid Day Toastmasters, did quite well at recruiting new members and earned an incentive for club growth from the District. Another club, Riverside Toastmasters, managed to keep all its members; the best thing about this club is that they provide a mentorship program that help new members navigate Pathways very easily. The last club, Beyond Toastmasters, is struggling a bit when it comes to retaining members; I am working strategically to make that club stand out from the crowd. I believe that all of my clubs can attain Distinguished status if they put in a little more effort. As an Area Director, I am ready to jump in to support my clubs.

Division D Director - Suzanne Weiss, ACB, CL, LD3, DL1

This Toastmasters year has had its challenges and successes. Many clubs are progressing from holding online Zoom meetings to holding either hybrid or in person meetings. Both having their unique challenges.

There was a club loss for this year. River Talkers disbanded. In their final meeting, there was discussion of members moving to other clubs or of reviving the club in the future. The majority of clubs have had an increase in membership, even if only a slight increase. There have been some that have thrived and increased in membership while being online.

There are three things that help a club develop and grow: having its members sign up and actively work in the Pathways Program, having its Executive members trained at the District TLIs and having a CSP (Club Success Plan) that is updated each year. There appears to be a strong correlation between club growth and fulfilling these three conditions. Clubs that are struggling tend to not satisfy these three factors for club success. My Division goal was to help struggling clubs satisfy these three conditions with the help of club coaches, club mentors, and Area Directors. Composing a CSP will provide a club with measurable goals, levels, and timelines. With a CSP the Executive team and the club members understand their role in maintaining a vibrant club.

I feel that Division D will continue to grow and evolve as we explore what the upcoming Toastmasters year will bring. Many clubs are pleased to resume in person meetings and learn the skills to hold well run hybrid meetings.

I wish to thank all of my Area Directors, in no particular order for a great year: Andrea Jeffs, Alan Idler, Marion Taylor, Diane Tremblay and Michael Lawlor.

Area 1 Director - Alan Idler, DTM

Area 1 has five active Toastmasters clubs in Division D. As social distancing stretched through another year, successful clubs adapted the delivery of Toastmasters programs to these circumstances. Clubs look forward to resuming regular meetings. Hybrid meetings should not be neglected because they suit the needs of a wider cross-section of Toastmasters. I have attended hybrid meetings of two Area 1 clubs and noted that they had excellent facilities for members attending in their location or remotely.

A club was slipping towards suspension until a push of publicity brought an influx of new and returning members. Hurrah! Nevertheless, if such an effort can be made in the final months, why not on a continuing basis?

Area 1 had strong participation in its contests. Congratulations to all contestants, volunteers, and supporters. My advice to Area 1 for next year is to meet the communication and leadership needs of your members to succeed.

Area 9 Director – Diane Tremblay, ACS, ALB, TC4, VC2

Area 9 consists of five clubs: Sears- Halifax Club (#1555); Spirit-Ed Toastmasters Club (#5375); Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters Club (#9307); Successfully Speaking Women (#1327791); and Wolfville Toastmasters (#2419498). All clubs are paid.

Low membership is an issue for four of the clubs in Area 9. One club has over the 20-member base, while the other clubs have a base between nine to 12 members. Two clubs (Sears-Halifax Club and Dartmouth TIC Talkers Toastmasters Club) have the potential of achieving Distinguished status this year. The remaining three clubs may not have enough members to have a chance to achieve Distinguished status.

Currently, all clubs are meeting online via Zoom. Clubs have begun to explore the future of how they hold their meetings: in person, online, hybrid, or varying between holding an in-person and online meetings on alternate weeks. Points for consideration include whether they can return to their previous physical location or if they need to find a new one, the availability of technology and whether they can have members that live in diverse geographic locations.

Three of Area 9 clubs (Sears-Halifax Club; Spirit-Ed Toastmasters Club; Wolfville Toastmasters) sent a total of 7 contestants to the Speech Area Contests.

All official and unofficial visits have been completed.

Area 11 Director - Andrea Jeffs, IP4, DL3

Area 11 consists of five clubs with membership from all over District 45. Over the past six months, these clubs have worked hard to recruit new members. I have seen from each of the clubs their dedication to finding ways to adapt and be flexible during the pandemic to run their club and make it enticing for new and existing members. I had the pleasure of visiting each of my clubs multiple times this year and appreciated how each one brings a different and unique dynamic to the format of their clubs! There is a strong level of leadership from each of the Presidents and the supporting Executive Members of the clubs in Area 11.

I would like to close by congratulating all those who competed at the Area 11 contest on Saturday, April 12. To all the volunteers who supported us during the contest, I would like to extend a sincere thank you. I would also like to congratulate East Coast Online Advanced Toastmasters for becoming the first club in the Area to obtain Distinguished status and for being well on their way to becoming Select Distinguished.

Area 18 Director - Michael Lawlor, ACB, ALB, MS5, TC5

Area 18 began the Toastmaster year with five clubs. One rural Nova Scotian community club with membership issues suspended operations in October, 2021. The other clubs in the Area include a corporate club and three community clubs. The three community clubs are in the Halifax metro area; the corporate club is an online-only club with members from Halifax, Montreal, and Ottawa. The challenge of obtaining online-only members continued this year, but three of the clubs successfully added at least five new members. Another challenge this year was completing the DCP educational goals in all levels. I helped identify and organize a meeting between a club and the Program Quality Director to successfully steer the club to greater success.

With the hope of COVID-19 restrictions loosening, one club has managed successfully to meet in hybrid format, and the other community clubs are poised to plan hybrid meetings in the next few months.

At the time of writing, two clubs are at Distinguished status. I would like to congratulate all Toastmasters for their individual successes in the Area this past year.

Area 21 Director - Marion Taylor, DTM

Area 21 consists of three clubs which are all dealing with membership struggles to varying degrees. At the time of writing this information, Toastmasters International was not up to date. The messages I am getting from TI for Area 21 are not current. One of the clubs in area 21 was considered healthy, only needing one more member to have the magic number of 20. The other two clubs are struggling with membership, but both have enough members to keep them from being suspended. and are actively working to attract guests. Although coaches are in short supply, one of the clubs applied for a coach and was able to get two coaches. This is the time for elections, and the clubs are looking for members to step up for the elections. Often, having new club leaders in place can lead to new ideas to attract more members, to hold better meetings, and to ensure more educational awards are being earned and presented. Taking on an Executive role within your club is educational as well as helpful. On the education side, the awards are starting to be filed to TI with more to come before the end of June 2022.

Division E Director - Madhu Kanji, DTM

It was a good year for growth and development for us in Division E. The one message I took away from our first TLI was that of teamwork and accountability. My three Area Directors, (Antoine Le Gresley, Lorelai Grecian and Jennifer Bryson) and I applied teamwork and accountability to our goals of consolidation, commitment and communication. We wanted to consolidate and grow our membership base, encourage our clubs to attain their Distinguished Club Program goals and to provide as much support as possible to all our 12 Clubs in Division E.

Our Clubs had all performed well in the previous year, so we thought that all we needed to focus on was our Division becoming Distinguished. It turned out to be more challenging than that. We soon realized that some of our clubs and their members would have preferred to meet in person. Our other clubs continued to grow and benefit from having an online presence. These clubs succeeded in recruiting members from different parts of Canada, as well as from other parts of the world. Many members benefitted from the increased networking opportunities available to them.

We plodded on. The Area Directors visited the clubs and submitted their reports. An attempt was made to get members in the Division to visit other clubs in the Division on a regular basis. We were not entirely successful in this initiative but continued in our efforts. We were successful in supporting a few of our more challenged Clubs and are in the process of acquiring Club Coaches for two of our other clubs.

We have learnt and grown and cherished the time that we have devoted to our District positions. We have engaged with the members and continue to encourage others to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are available to them. We believe that commitment, consolidation and improved communication has been an asset to us.

Area 2 Director - Antoine Legresley, IP4

Area 2 consists of four clubs; two of the clubs are in the Moncton area; one club is in Miramichi; and one is in northern New Brunswick in Caraquet. The club Arcadie du Grand Caraquet is the only French club in District 45. This has been a challenging year for Area 2 and all clubs has been struggling to attract and retain members. However, even with fewer members, three of the clubs are still holding fun and productive meetings as the current members are engaged in the Toastmasters program. The fourth clubs has struggled to have the minimum of 8 members and was not able to meet during the last year. One club is now having a Club Coach help them to increase their membership. One club is having hybrid meetings and one other club will start hybrid meetings soon. The Area 2 International Speech contest, Table Topics contest and Humorous Speech contest were held on April 2. I did all my club visits online for both rounds, and it has been a pleasure and a good learning experience serving as Area 2 Director for a second year.

Area 3 Director - Lorelei Grecian, CC, CL, IP5, PI4

Area 3 consists of four clubs; we have one advanced club and three community clubs that all serving different types of members. Three of our clubs are in the Greater Moncton area; they all currently meet online with local and non-local membership. Our focus has been on quality meetings and club culture, personal educational achievement, and sustainable membership growth. One club has maintained a high success overall in membership, education, administration, and training. Another club was motivated, with consistent effort and coaching support, to have quality meetings and a club culture supportive of learning and recovered from a suspended status. Two clubs are navigating lowering membership numbers. One needs coaching support. All clubs are engaging visitors who have expressed interest in membership. Area 3 club leaders have created a strong foundation for moving forward. Two clubs are aiming for Distinguished status by June 30, 2022. I am encouraged by the investment into success by our Area 3 members.

Area 17 Director - Jennifer Bryson, LD5, DL5, VC2

Area 17 consists of 4 clubs; one is a corporate club, and the other three clubs are all community clubs, with two clubs located in Charlottetown and two clubs located in Summerside, PEI. While the clubs look good on paper, most are struggling with membership and actual member attendance at meetings. I have spoken with three out of four of the Area 17 Clubs, and I suggested the addition of a Club Coach; two clubs were receptive and still qualify, and one club was not receptive and no longer technically qualifies. There is some talk amongst the clubs of the possibility of continuing with an online or hybrid meeting model; some members are encouraged by this and the option of being able to continue online, while some members are anxious and extremely vocal about returning to in-person meetings only.

Despite another year of pandemic ups and downs, Area 17 clubs have persevered and I am very proud of their achievements thus far and the traction that they continue to have.

I believe that the 2021-2022 Toastmaster year has been productive and successful in many ways, and I expect that three of the four clubs in Area 17 will achieved Distinguished status by the end of the year. I am encouraged by the resilience, tenacity and ability to pivot by my fellow Toastmasters and it has been an honor to work alongside them as the Area 17 Director this past year.

Division G Director - Tom Goodwin, DTM, PDD

Division G currently has 16 active clubs, which is down by one due to a suspended club as of April . Of the active clubs, all but one club has renewed with at least eight members as of April 4. Eleven of the clubs have achieved at least one educational DCP point; seven of the clubs have attracted at least four new members with two clubs attracting eight new members; and nine of the 16 clubs had at least four officers trained in each of the two training periods. Through the end of March, a total of 76 educational awards have been earned by Division G members. The Division G Area Directors and Club Officers continue to work hard at retaining our members and attracting new members, and I would like to congratulate them all on their persistent work throughout the year.

Area 7 Director - Roxanne Benzel, MS2

Area 7 has four clubs that include three community clubs and 1 closed corporate club located in the southern tier of New Hampshire. Here are a few notables from this past year:

- All clubs have successfully embraced the pandemic challenge of holding meetings with hybrid technology. The clubs have discovered how to speak to a live and virtual audience, leveraging meeting rooms and cameras. Learning (or even re-learning) eye contact skills, learning where to stand to address virtual and in-person club participants, and finding just the right speaking area has brought a greater appreciation to club meetings.
- Speech contests have been fun this year with excellent collaboration between clubs and Areas. So many Toastmasters have been extremely helpful in Zoom mastering, as Judges, and functionaries from a wide range of locations.
- One club from Area 7 will be stepping down from its long journey and will be dissolving at the end of this Toastmaster year. Merrimasters will be sharing its resources as it dissolves, and current members can participate in other Toastmasters clubs.
- Congratulations goes to the Nashua-Hudson Toastmasters for meeting their Select Distinguished goals for this year!
- I want to say “Thank You!” to all Area 7 club officers and members for a memorable year - it was such a privilege to meet everyone!

Area 8 Director - Susanne Melling, DTM

The five clubs in Area 8 are in northern and central Vermont; three clubs are in the greater Burlington area and the other 2 clubs are located in Barre and Stowe. Area 8 clubs are all meeting online (using Zoom) with two clubs holding hybrid meetings. The other clubs anticipate holding hybrid meetings before the summer of 2022.

One of biggest challenges for most Area 8 clubs has been membership; only the one corporate club, Dynamic Speakers, has exceeded its membership goals. While Area 8 clubs have all met several club goals, they are focused on increasing membership so that they can attain Distinguished status. The strength of Area 8 is the consistency of core membership in each club and the team approach to Area events which is witnessed by all area clubs participating in this 2022 contest season. Our mantra for the remainder of the year will be membership, membership, membership.

Area 15 Director - Sarah Wright, PM5, SR1

Spring is in the air, and Area 15 Clubs are putting forth an effort to bring fresh members to their meetings. What an exciting time to join Toastmasters as Division G is getting geared up for the Division Speech Contest on April 16. We are all very excited to see members represent our Area in the International, Humorous, and Table Topics contests. One of my clubs, Toast of the Valley, won the "Track Your Success" contest and will be able to put the prize winnings back into their club. For the remainder of the Toastmasters' Year, our clubs will be focused on member recruitment and maintain a laser focus toward achieving educational awards for all members, helping our clubs to meet goals 1 to 6 for DCP (Distinguished Club Program) points.

Area 25 Director - Brian Richards, DTM

There are four clubs in Area 25; there are two corporate clubs and two community clubs. One community club is struggling to reach eight members. The second community club, Winning Speakers, is on the way to achieving Distinguished status and is successfully holding hybrid meetings; however, reaching their membership requirement will be a challenge. Fidelity Orators, one of the corporate clubs, has achieved its membership goal, and is working in Pathways on educational achievement. Merrimakers, a corporate club, appears content to keep its activities solely within the club; there is a disconnect between Pathways educational achievement and recording those achievements in Club Central. Hopefully, this will change in the near future. Members of two of the clubs participated in the Area 25 speech contests, and also participated in the TLI's. Spring has brought with it an increase in the number of guests attending the meetings, which is a promising sign for the future.

NOTES
