



2024-2025 District 45 Council Meeting

May 3, 2025

Presiding: District Director Sharon Joseph, DTM

Meeting Minutes

Mandatory Check in	All DC members were repeatedly told of the mandatory check in so our credentials chair, Angela Stoddart could complete verification of votes to be issued and establishment of quorum.
Call to Order and Welcome Recording for minutes only	Administration Manager for this call is Claudette Joseph. The meeting was promptly called to order at 9:00 am Eastern / 10:00 am Atlantic / 10:30 am Newfoundland time. The recording was enabled for meeting minutes purposes only. Once the meeting minutes are created, the recording will be deleted.
Welcome Review of the District Mission	District Director Sharon Joseph, DTM welcomed everyone and acknowledged our special guests Lynda Starr, RA, Tom Goodwin, DTM, PDD, Angela Chute, DTM IPDD, Crystal Cobb, DTM, PDD and read the district mission.
Review of Voting Procedures District 45 Standing Rules	Parliamentarian Erin McMenemy, DTM reviewed the district standing rules and voting procedure for the meeting.
Credentials Report	Credentials Chair Angela Stoddart provided her credentials report: Active Club Presidents & VPEs: 126 Quorum ($\frac{1}{3}$ club votes): 42 # of Club Ballots Issued: 69 # of District Ballots Issued: 14 Total Ballots Issued: 83 Quorum is established. District business can be conducted. We reviewed the features of Election Buddy.
Meeting Agenda	The District Council members received the amended agenda in advance via email and it was also posted on the District website. Without objection, the agenda is adopted. There were no objections therefore the amended agenda was adopted as presented.
District Council Meeting Minutes of Sep 14 2024 - Review & Acceptance	The District Council members received the Sep 14 2024 District Council meeting minutes in advance via email and it is also posted on the District website. Without objection, the meeting minutes are adopted. There were no objections. The meeting minutes were adopted.
District Leadership Report	District Leadership Chair Angela Chute, DTM, IPDD presented the committee's report. She announced the names of the committee members and read each nominated candidate, in alphabetical order, for each of the offices. The report is valid and incomplete because of the openings for Division Directors for next year. A motion was made by Shelley Petit, Area 2 Director, club President and VPE to adopt the DLC report as presented. Seconded by Veerendra Nagalla,

	<p>Division C Director. There was no discussion on the motion. All were in favour of the motion. Motion is passed.</p>
Alignment Committee Report	<p>Alignment Committee Chair Crystal Cobb, DTM, PDD presented the committee's report. The report was sent to the District Council members before the meeting and also posted on the district website. In summary, Division A and Division B are being merged and clubs are being aligned to ensure each division has the minimum 4 areas and each area has the minimum 4 clubs.</p> <p>A motion was made by Veerendra Nagalla, Division C to accept the report as presented. Seconded by Reese Eskridge, Area 16 Director.</p> <p>Peggy Seymore, VPE of The Maine Thing Toastmasters club is requesting that TMT be moved to Div A Area 6 since Dirigo Leaders is dissolving. TMT is the only American club in Division D. There is a significant amount of travel, tolls and an overnight stay for speech contests and other division events. There is also some contention in crossing the border.</p> <p>Peggy Seymore, VPE of The Maine Thing Toastmasters club made a motion to amend the existing motion to move The Maine Thing Toastmasters Club to Division A Area 6 in place of Dirigo Leaders as this club is dissolving. The motion was seconded by Casey Jenkins VPE of Portsmouth Toastmasters. Angela Chute IPDD and DJ Turchon VPE Kennebec Valley Toastmasters support the amendment as presented by Peggy Seymore. Crystal Cobb, President of Riverview Canusa and Alignment Committee Chair confirmed that if the motion was to be passed, Area 6 would be within guidelines as set out by TI.</p> <p>Donna Tasker, Area 6 director asked about the limit in the number areas in a division because she is wondering why Area 14 was dissolved. This is a different point of order and will be discussed after the current amendment of the original motion is complete.</p> <p>Marion Taylor, VPE River Valley Toastmasters is in favour of the amendment of the motion.</p> <p>Shelley Petit, Area 2 Director suggested that it would be difficult to make a decision because we would need to know if there is money in the budget available for travel. District Director Sharon Joseph stated that there is money in the budget for next year for travel.</p> <p>Veerendra Nagalla, Division C Director reiterated the rules for clubs within an area that there must be at least 4 clubs within an area. He also reiterated that we must look at the overall impact of the club movement on the district.</p> <p>No further discussions were required.</p> <p>43 votes in favour of the amended motion. 2 people opposed to the motion. The amended motion to move The Maine Thing to Div A Area 6 since Dirigo Leaders is dissolving has passed.</p> <p>Liz Decker, VPE of 2211 Toastmasters put forward an amended motion to move 2211 Toastmasters from Division A Area 8 to Division A Area 6 to be with the other Maine Clubs. Seconded by Casey Jenkins VPE Portsmouth Toastmasters club.</p> <p>Liz Decker stated that the proposed move has 2211 Toastmasters aligned with clubs from New Hampshire and Vermont which will cause hardships related to travel to participate in area, division and District events.</p> <p>Shelley Petit, Area 2 director, once again stated that we cannot make a decision with knowing budgets for travel. District Director Sharon Joseph once again stated there is money for travel if required.</p> <p>Crystal Cobb, President of Riverview Canusa and Alignment Committee Chair confirmed that if the motion was to be passed, Area 6 would NOT be within</p>

	<p>guidelines as set out by TI given the recent amended motion to move The Maine Thing Toastmasters to Area 6 since adding 2211 Toastmasters would put Area 6 at 7 clubs.</p> <p>Warren Coolidge Area 8 Director and President of Champ Masters stated he supports the amended motion put forward by Liz Decker.</p> <p>Donna Tasker, Area 6 Director, President of Blueberry Hill Toastmasters has a question</p> <p>DJ Turchon does not support the amended motion brought forward by Liz Decker.</p> <p>Tom Goodwin, Prescient of FLP Financially Speaking suggested that there should be a 6th area in the US since FLP Financially Speaking is put in a Canadian area and it would limit his club's members from attending any area, division or district events.</p> <p>At this time, District Director Sharon Joseph suggested the alignment report needs to go back to committee, taking into account everyone's input.</p> <p>Shelley Petit, Area 2 Director, made a motion to suspend the amended alignment committee report and refer the alignment report back to committee for further discussion. Seconded by Tom Goodwin, Prescient of FLP Financially Speaking. There was no discussion on this motion. All were in favour. None opposed. Motion carried.</p> <p>The amended alignment report is now referred back to the alignment committee for further discussion and review.</p>
<p>District Leadership Elections: DD, PQD, CGD, Division Directors</p>	<p>For District Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the DLC nominated candidate: Sherry MacDonald, DTM - one floor candidate for the position: Paul Coddington, DTM <p>No other nominations from the floor were put forward so the nominations for District Director were closed.</p> <p>Each candidate was given two minutes to make a presentation. The green was shown at 1 minute, yellow at 1:30 and red at 2 minutes at which point, the candidate was muted.</p> <p>The electronic ballots were sent by our Credentials Chair Angela Stoddart. There was a problem with one ballot and after some discussion with Region Advisors Lynda Starr, Lisa Qu, District Director Sharon Joseph and Credentials Chair Angela Stoddart, the issue was resolved and all votes cast were counted.</p> <p>Number of votes cast: 82 Majority: $82/2 + 1 = 42$ Vote Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul Coddington, DTM 33 votes (40.24%) - Sherry MacDonald, DTM 49 votes (59.76%) <p>District Director Elect for 2025-2026 is Sherry MacDonald, DTM -----</p> <p>For Program Quality Director, the DLC nominated candidate is Tom Macisso, DTM. No nominations from the floor were put forward so the nominations for Program Quality Director were closed.</p> <p>Given that we have one candidate for the role of program quality director, without objection, District Director Sharon Joseph asked the-administration</p>

manager Claudette Joseph to cast a single vote in favour of Tom Macisso as program quality director.

Hearing no objections, our-administration manager Claudette Joseph did cast a single vote in favour of Tom Macisso as program quality director.

Program Quality Director Elect for 2025-2026 is Tom Macisso, DTM

For Club Growth Director, the DLC nominated candidate is Madhu Kanji, DTM. No nominations from the floor were put forward so the nominations for Club Growth Director were closed.

Given that we have one candidate for the role of program quality director, without objection, District Director Sharon Joseph asked the-administration manager Claudette Joseph to cast a single vote in favour of Madhu Kanji as Club Growth director.

Hearing no objections, our-administration manager Claudette Joseph did cast a single vote in favour of Madhu Kanji as Club Growth director.

Club Growth Director Elect for 2025-2026 is Madhu Kanji, DTM

For Division A Director, the DLC had no nominees.

Crystal Cobb, President Spotlight nominated Paul Coddington, DTM for the role of Division A Director from the floor. Paul Coddington, DTM accepted the nomination. No more nominations were brought forward from the floor so the nominations were closed.

Given that we have one candidate for the role of Division A director, without objection, District Director Sharon Joseph asked the-administration manager Claudette Joseph to cast a single vote in favour of Paul Coddington as Division A director.

Hearing no objections, our-administration manager Claudette Joseph did cast a single vote in favour of Paul Coddington as Division A director.

Division A Director Elect for 2025-2026 is Paul Coddington, DTM

For Division C Director, the DLC had no nominees. No nominations were brought forward from the floor.

Given that we had no nominees, District Director Elect Sherry MacDonald will be able to appoint a member to this role.

For Division D Director, the DLC had no nominees.

Lawrence Kelly self-nominated from the floor. No more nominations were brought forward from the floor so the nominations were closed.

Given that we have one candidate for the role of Division D director, without objection, District Director Sharon Joseph asked the administration manager Claudette Joseph to cast a single vote in favour of Lawrence Kelly as Division D director.

	<p>Hearing no objections, our-administration manager Claudette Joseph did cast a single vote in favour of Lawrence Kelly as Division D director.</p> <p>Division D Director Elect for 2025-2026 is Lawrence Kelly.</p>
2024-2025 Audit Committee Report	<p>Audit Committee Chair Louise Bernier, DTM presented that the semi-annual audit certification is pending. During the audit, an error was found in the conversation rate from CDN to US which caused a bit of a delay. The audit committee worked with Kayte Troutman from TI to correct this.</p> <p>The audit committee received positive answers to all of their questions and an acknowledgement of their recommendations. As per the district guidelines, no policy errors or issues are found and the district remains under budget. They've received the first few months of reports for 2025 and will complete the audit of these in the next few weeks. The committee fully expects to complete the year end audit as per the schedule.</p> <p>Veerendra Nagalla, Division C moved to accept the District 45 Mid-Year Audit report as presented. Seconded by Lawrence Kelly, PRM. No discussion. All were in favour of accepting the report as presented. Motion passed.</p>
TI District Realignment	<p>Initially Patricia McNevin, DTM, PDD was originally appointed to represent District 45 but had to step out. Angela Chute, DTM, IPDD stepped in to fill this role.</p> <p>District 45 was part of the realignment committee group 12 which consisted of old region 9 (district 31, 45, 46, 53, 61, 65, 83 and 119). The realignment was required because of districts that have less than 100 clubs. Districts with more than 100 clubs run well and find leaders at all levels. Districts with less than 100 clubs have smaller budgets and limited resources to conduct District activities.</p> <p>In 2023-2024, TI finished with approximately the same number of clubs they had in 2012. In 2012, TI had 86 districts and as of January 2025, TI has 131 districts.</p> <p>The process was to consider geography, marketing opportunities, logistics, club performance and leadership. culture and socioeconomics with the goal of creating districts with 120 - 180 clubs and consolidating 8 districts into 5 districts.</p> <p>The plan for District 45 is, effective July 1 2026, to merge with District 31 (Massachusetts and Rhode Island) except for Vermont. Vermont is to be merged with the combined districts of 65 and 53.</p> <p>Toastmasters Board of Directors' approval is expected by August 2025 with the district realignment coming into effect July 1, 2026. The transition will be led by WHQ.</p> <p>Shelley Petit, Area 2 Director moved to accept the TI Realignment Committee Report as presented. Seconded by Casey Jenkins, VPE Portsmouth Toastmasters.</p> <p>Veerendra Nagalla, Division C Director, wants to know if we are retaining the name of District 45? Angela Chute says the naming of the district was decided by (1) the district with the most clubs, (2) the oldest club and (3) the most active clubs. District 31 satisfied all three criteria so 2025-2026 will be the last year for District 45.</p> <p>Paul Coddington, VPE Spotlight researched the procedure and stated there was an option for the district to present to TI a plan to grow the district to 100 clubs over the next three years, with an annual review, to remain a district in good standing. Is that option no longer available? Angela Chute said that was an option that was being looked at and in the last two years, TI was</p>

	<p>looking for districts to meet that 100 club threshold. If District 45 was closer to that, we could have qualified for that process however, the steering committee will be presenting their recommendation to the Board of Directors in August. Paul Coddington is wondering if a discussion was had within District 45 to formulate a plan. Angela Chute will research and let Paul Coddington know.</p> <p>Shelley Petit, Area 2 Director, asked if there was a possibility of having the merger postponed until Angela completes her research. District Director Sharon Joseph called on Region Advisor Lynda Starr for guidance. Lynda Starr DTM, RA stated that this cannot be pushed back. The report, as presented by Angela Chute, is an informational report for members of District 45. Separately from this, if the district wants to discuss a plan to get to 100 clubs, that could be handled separately.</p> <p>District Director Sharon Joseph questioned whether we need to accept the report given that it's informational only. Erin McMenemy, District Parliamentarian, confirmed that informational reports are moved to accept as presented. This confirms that the motion on the floor is valid.</p> <p>Warren Coolidge, Area 8 Director, which is entirely in Vermont, with the realignment showing of the district, the state of Vermont will be connected with districts where they know no one and this would move them away from fellow members that they know well. Angela Chute discussed the alignment by reviewing the map showing that Vermont is actually geographically better aligned to District 65 and 53.</p> <p>Peggy Seymour, VPE of The Maine Thing Toastmasters club presented that she is also part of District 83 and while that district has well over 100 clubs, they are also affected by the realignment due to their neighbours. Even if you have over 100 clubs, the district will not be excluded from this process.</p> <p>There were no further points of discussion.</p> <p>32 votes were in favour of accepting the motion. 4 votes opposed. Motion has passed.</p>
Division Director Reports	<p>Division A report from Joseph Reid was presented by District Director Sharon Joseph.</p> <p>Division B report was presented by Patricia Saucier, DTM.</p> <p>Division C report was presented by Veerendra Nagalla.</p> <p>Division D report from Aaleyah S. Evans was presented by District Director Sharon Joseph.</p>
District Reports	<p>Administration Manager report was presented by Carol Coolidge.</p> <p>Public Relations: Lawrence Kelly</p> <p>Club Growth: Tom Macisso, DTM</p> <p>Program Quality: Sherry MacDonald, DTM</p> <p>District Director: Sharon Joseph, DTM</p> <p>Veerendra Nagalla, Division C Director moved to accept the District 45 leadership reports as presented. Seconded by Shelley Petit, Area 2 director. Angela Chute asked about the date for the next DEC and DC meeting. It's coming in the next slide. No further points of discussion.</p> <p>All were in favour of accepting the reports as presented. Motion passed.</p>
Next District Council Meeting	<p>District Director Sharon Joseph, DTM presented the next District 45 Council meeting to be held on Saturday September 13th, 2025 online using zoom starting at 9 am Eastern / 10 am Atlantic / 10:30 am Newfoundland time.</p>

	<p>Veerendra Nagalla, Division C Director made a motion to accept the next District Council date as presented. Seconded by Angela Chute, IPDD. No discussions on the motion.</p> <p>All were in favour of accepting the next District Council meeting date as presented. Motion passed.</p>
Spring Conference Update	Erin McMenemy presented about the conference from May 23 to 25th in Moncton.
International Updates	<p>District Director Sharon Joseph, DTM spoke about the TI Annual Convention happening August 20-23, 2025 in Philadelphia.</p> <p>Lynda Starr DTM, RA thanks the leaders of District 45 for their leadership and reminded us that the year is not yet! Strong to the finish!</p> <p>Reese Eskridge, DTM reminded us that Toastmasters On Demand is available to give you access to the full conventions from 2012 to present!</p>
New Business (if applicable)	<p>District Director Sharon Joseph, DTM reminded the members that the District Alignment report is being sent back to Crystal Cobb, DTM PDD and her committee for review. Members of District 45 have until Friday May 9th 2025 to submit their respectful suggestions, recommendations to Crystal Cobb. She and her committee cannot promise to implement all of the suggestions but will draft a new report at which time, it will be sent to the DEC for review then to the DC. This will be done electronically.</p> <p>District Director Sharon Joseph, DTM reminded the leadership to ensure their incoming leadership is elected and can attend the upcoming TLI sessions.</p> <p>Shelley Petit, Area 2 director recognized Reese Eskridge, DTM for all of his efforts with his Friday/Sunday leadership sessions.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>District Director Elect Sherry MacDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 pm Eastern / 1:09 pm Atlantic / 1:39 pm Newfoundland time. No seconder required.</p>