



# Meeting Minutes of District 123

Virtual District Council Meeting – May 7, 2022

The meeting convened on Saturday May 7, 2022 at 9:40 am with District Council Members present

1. **Call to Order and District Mission**

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- a. We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence
- b. Introduction of non-District Council members in attendance**
  - i. Bruce Richardson, Tech Chair, Zoom Master, Member of Brooklin Toastmasters
  - ii. Paul Bates, Tech Co-Chair, Zoom Master, Member of Embassy Toastmasters
  - iii. Jacklyn A. Payne, DTM, Credentials Co-Chair, Past District Director, Incoming Region Advisor for Region 6,
  - iv. Michelle Spear, DTM, Credentials Co-Chair, Member of Dynamic Advanced Toastmasters
  - v. Marina Ross, Parliamentarian, Member of Bowmanville Toastmasters
- c. Conference Promotion (to allow credential chairs to finalize their report)**
  - i. This coming weekend in Barrie in the exceptional Georgian College facility. The original price of \$199.00 still stands. Hear fabulous speakers, attend workshops. You can attend in person or online. Attend the District Director’s Dinner where there will be a DJ for dancing, Karaoke, and a photo booth to memorialize your time at the event. This is your chance to connect in person with your fellow toastmasters and we hope to see you there.

2. **Credentials Report**

Jacklyn A. Payne, DTM & Michelle Spear, DTM

- a. Who Can Vote and Quorum:
  - i. District Council members:
    - 1. Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education in good standing of clubs in good standing and District Executive Committee members.
  - ii. District Executive Committee Votes:
    - 1. Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director and District Director

b. Quorum

# Active Club Presidents and VP-Eds	285
QUORUM 1/3 of Club Votes	95
Club Quorum requirement met	Yes
# of Club Ballots issued	115
# of District Ballots issued	42
Total Ballots issued	157
Simple Majority	80
2/3 Majority	105

**c. Credentials Report was adopted, by Unanimous Consent**

3.

**Approval of Agenda**

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- a. Members of the District Council had been given access to the agenda prior to the meeting for reviewing.
- b. Agenda was approved by Unanimous Consent**

**Approval of District Council Guidelines**

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- c. Members of the District Council had been given access to the District Council guidelines prior to the meeting for review.
- d. District Council Guidelines approved by Unanimous Consent**

**Outline Voting Procedures**

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- e. Members of the District Council had been given access to the Voting procedures prior to the meeting for review. Motions will either be carried by Unanimous Consent or by a Zoom Poll

#### Approval of September 20, 2021 minutes

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- f. Members of the District Council had been given access to the Minutes of September 20, 2021 prior to the meeting for review. It was agreed that a reading of the minutes could be waived.

#### g. Minutes of September 20, 2021 approved by Unanimous Consent

#### 4. Audit Report

Annie Wang, CPA, CGA, MBA, Audit Chair

- a. Clarify Responsibility
  - i. District Financial Manager: to ensure that the Mid-Year Profit and Loss Statements accurately reflect district income and expenses
  - ii. Audit Committee: to express an opinion on these financial statements on the audits
- b. Audit Report
  - i. The Audit committee has conducted the audit in accordance with Toastmasters International Audit Committee Guidelines
- c. Audit Opinion
  - i. In our opinion, the financial manager has provided the valuable information about the financial activities of the district and its performance compared to the budget. We confirm these Mid-year Profit & Loss statements are complete and accurate. The Mid-year Profit and Loss Statements accurately reflected district income and expenses. We have not found any unauthorized use of district funds. All transactions are adequately supported and policies are properly followed.

#### 5. Profit and Loss Report

Santosh Pahwa, Finance Manger

- a. Finance Manager presented March to Year to date
- b. Variance should be back in line by April 2022
- c. The reason for the Income being higher that the budget for many items was explained
- d. No action required – Report is for information purposes only and in District Council Document

#### 6. Confirm District Executive Committee Appointments

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- a. Area E84 Director – David Chilvers – Appointed
- b. Parliamentarian – Marina Ross – Appointed

#### 7. Alignment Report

Arthur Ching – Alignment Chair

- a. Slides were presented outlining the Alignment Report and is available in the District Council Document
- b. Q & A
  - i. **Cheryl Bates, DTM** – Confirmed that Point of Tale is not moving
  - ii. **Zack Dawood, DTM** – AECOM was suspended by mistake and he is working with TI to get it reinstated.
  - iii. **MaryLou Ahsan** – Confirmed that the Alignment Report is available in the District Council Document and is a living document, meaning changes may occur
  - iv. **Anton Coetzee** – Why are 3 of the same club in the same division
    1. **Zack Dawood** – CGI clubs are different business units of the same company and they meet separately. There are no dual memberships.
  - v. **Elizabeth Yango** – DHL club is back in order
- c. **The Alignment Report was adopted as a living document by Unanimous Consent**

#### 8. Public Relations Report

JD Thomas, Public Relations Manager

- a. The website has led to 142 club leads
- b. **Social Media:**
  - i. Currently there is:
    1. Facebook – 808 Users
    2. Instagram – 167 Followers
    3. You Tube – 116 Subscribers – now have a customized URL
    4. LinkedIn – 111 Connections
  - ii. Thank you to Jade Wilton Watson – Social Media Chair
  - iii. Thank you to Renee Chan, Webmaster and Emanuel Petrescu, Web Designer
  - iv. Thank you to Tuula Reddit – Newsletter Editor
- c. **Website:**
  - i. Page views: 28,536
  - ii. Unique Users: 5,366
  - iii. Repeat Users: 1,122
  - iv. Top Pages: Calendar, Conference, Leaders, Pathways Paths
  - v. Overall Bounce rate: 50.44%

- d. **Newsletter:**
  - i. May edition – 42% open rate
- e. **Campaigns**
  - i. “Path For That” is ongoing

9. **Club Growth Director Report** Leslie Benfield, DTM, Club Growth Director

- a. Presentation included information on New Clubs and Leads:
  - i. **New Clubs:**
    - 1. There have been 4 new clubs created and another 6 – 10 should be running by year end
    - 2. There are 4 more prospective corporate clubs
  - ii. **Membership**
    - 1. District 123 is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Region
    - 2. District 123 is 20<sup>th</sup> in the World
  - iii. **Speechcraft**
    - 1. On average, the clubs that ran a Speechcraft gained 5 new members after
  - iv. **Club Coaches are still needed**
- b. Full slide presentation available in District Council Documents

10. **Program Quality Director Report** Iona Rodricks, DTM, Program Quality Director

- a. Full slide presentation is available in the District Council Documents
- b. Final message: Keep members speaking to achieve Distinguished Club Points
- c. 27 Clubs ranked Distinguished
- d. 72 clubs with 5 or more DCP points

11. **District Director Report** Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- a. Thank you, District Committee members for stepping up to serve on the District 123 inaugural executive during these difficult and frequently changing times. You took on your role and demonstrated the Toastmasters’ values of Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence by looking for places for new clubs, contributing to your own clubs, and providing Club Officer Training for your members. You held workshops and built engagement with clubs and the community. You created engagement and supported your members, clubs and teams. Thank you for your work in District 123. You helped to build our District while always following Integrity, Inclusivity and Achievement.

12. **ID Candidate Speeches** International Director, Region 6 Candidates

- a. Dawn Frail, DTM – Recorded Video speech
- b. Jing Humphreys, DTM – In-person speech
- c. Jenilee Taylor, DTM – Recorded Video speech

13. **District Leadership Chair Report** Peggy Onlock, DTM, DLC member

- a. Full report is available in District Council Folder
- b. Correction: misspelled name of candidate for Club Growth Director – the name should be Diane Paton-Sutherland
- c. Correction: misspelled name of candidate for Division M Director – the name should be Sol Seyedi
- d. **Report adopted**

14. **Elections** Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- a. **District Director – Iona Rodricks, DTM – 1 ballot assigned - ACCLAIMED**
- b. **Program Quality Director – Leslie Benfield, DTM – 1 ballot assigned – ACCLAIMED**
- c. **Club Growth Director – Candidates were announced**
  - i. **Sudha Datta, DTM** (Not present when candidate names announced)
  - ii. **Diane Paton-Sutherland, DTM**
  - iii. Several individuals objected to Sudha Datta’s name on the ballot as he was not present when the names were announced.
  - iv. The District Director clarified that as the candidate was nominated and had accepted the nomination, his name could stand on the ballot and this was not open for debate. The candidate did not need to be present to be on the ballot. A question was made to all present as to whether Sudha Datta had withdrawn his acceptance of the nomination and no response was received. A call was made as to whether there was anyone present to present a speech on Sudha Datta’s behalf, with no response.
  - v. The next candidate, Diane Paton-Sutherland, DTM, was then invited to speak and did so for 2 minutes. Sudha Datta was then admitted to the room and a question was raised as to whether the candidate could then speak out of order as the governing documents did not clearly specify whether this was permissible. The District Director asked if there was any objection to this and an objection was made. The District Director chose to honour the objection and the candidate was not permitted to speak out of order.

Vote: Simple Majority = 54

Sudha Datta, DTM – 47 votes

Diane Paton-Sutherland, DTM – 58 votes

**Club Growth Director – Diane Paton-Sutherland - VOTED IN**

The following Division Directors we acclaimed as a slate:

- d. **Division A – Vikas Ramrakha, DTM – 1 ballot assigned**
  - e. **Division B – Elizabeth Yango – 1 ballot assigned**
  - f. **Division C – Maxine Henry – 1 ballot assigned**
  - g. **Division D – Shyam Puligadda – 1 ballot assigned**
  - h. **Division E – Cynthia Scott – 1 ballot assigned**
  - i. **Division M – Sol Seyedi – 1 ballot assigned**
  - j. **Division N – Colleen Charland, DTM – 1 ballot assigned**
- k. Barry Doctor, DTM then nominated **Sudha Datta, DTM for Division G Director**. Sudha Datta was asked if he would accept the nomination for Division G Director and he did accept and was **Acclaimed**

15. Installation of New District Officers

Jacklyn A. Payne, DTM

- a. All new officers were installed into their roles.
- b. In turn were passed the virtual gavel and asked to repeat “I will” after the description of their role was read

16. District Director Elect Message

Iona Rodricks, DTM, District Director Elect

- a. District Director-Elect gave an acceptance speech

17. Closing Remarks

Kris Nelson, DTM, District Director

- a. As a new District, there was no Immediate Past District Director to assist. Kris Nelson has been privileged to have past leaders’ support and their contribution to the new District 123 in 2021/2022.

Kris campaigned on the 3 key tenets of Integrity, Inclusivity and Achievement and was proud of the District Council and members, who followed these tenets. District 123 brought together parts of 2 previous districts while maintaining close relationships with both of these.

Kris, congratulated members on achieving awards, building new clubs and coming up with new ideas and creative strategies to deal with things whether it was something difficult in a club or an idea to work within an area or division.

She reminded us that we demonstrated integrity by doing the right thing, because it was the right thing. It’s not always the easiest choice and not always the choice we like but the right thing doesn’t change.

Kris thanked the District Council for following the Toastmasters values of Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence and for being a valued part of District 123 this year.

There are still 8 weeks left in the Toastmasters year and Kris is looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the District Conference in Barrie. Kris can always be reached at [dd@toastmasters123.org](mailto:dd@toastmasters123.org).

Looking forward to a terrific end of this year and moving forward in growth in 2022/2023.

18. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Distribution: District Council Members