

District 31 Executive Council

Business Meeting Fall 2009 Conference

Hilton Hotel - Dedham, MA - Saturday November 7, 2009

Submitted by acting Secretary, Jeni Lu (The Last Word Toastmasters [VPPR])

Date: November 7, 2009

Signed: [Jeni Lu], Acting Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 PM by Dave Lapierre (Chelmsford Toastmasters, # 4031, Area A2 Governor,)

2. District Mission

The District Mission statement was read by Dave Lapierre.

3. Inspiration

Paul Fischer delivered a message of inspiration and encouraged everyone to “*speak from heart.*”

4. Introductions

Sherri Raftery (DTM, District 31 Governor) recognized Past District Governors:

- PDG, Cherylle Garnes, DTM. PDG, Ray Snay, DTM, PDG, Tom Weber, DTM,
- PDG, Victor Carbone, DTM PDG, Paul Fischer, DTM

5. Credentials Committee Report

Presented by Victor Carbone (DTM PDG, Back Talk, Leading Speakers). The District has 141 clubs in good standing. Each club gets two votes $141 \times 2 = 282$ club votes. One third of 282 is 94. The credential desk distributed 118 Club Officer ballots and 23 District Officer Ballots which is 141 ballots (votes).

- 23 District Ballots
- 118 Club Officer Ballots

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141 Ballots Cast

6. Adoption of Standing Rules

Motion to accept Standing Rules: Raymond Snay, (Researchers, #2201)

Seconded: George Manoogian (Gateway Gabbers, # 8612)

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Secretary's Report

Motion to adopt the agenda as written: David Lapierre

Seconded: Janine Danielson (Minutemen, #2288)

Two corrections were made to the Secretary reports:

Esther Paris (Division G Governor, Advanced Orators Club, Saturday Brunch Bunch Club) – On page 4, in the section “Redistricting Report”, the incorrect Division was listed for her. Also, under the “Division Governor Elections” section, her name (Esther Paris) is not included.

Amended minutes adopted by unanimous consent.

8. Approval of District Governor Appointments

Stefano McGhee – Division C

Motioned by David Lapierre (Chelmsford Club)

Cherylle Garnes (Renaissance Advanced TM, Confident Communicators)

Seconded by: Susan Van Abs (Synergists, Westford Expressions)

9. Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee report was presented by Janine Danielson (Minutemen Club, ATM-B Audit Chair). She stated that internal procedures could be approved.

The content of the report can be found in the Business Meeting packet.

Nathan Larson (EMC Hopkinton) – Asked about mileage expenses.

Audit Chair - stated that mileage expenses are explained. Books and records are neat and organized.

Kathy Lynch (Last Word Toastmasters) – Asked about the district plan for the leftover \$28,000 balance.

Julia Grant stated a required starting budget exists for each year. On July 1^{st.}, the amount of the requirement is equal to 1/3 of previous year (\$9K)

Motion to accept the Audit report as written: Raymond Snay, (Researchers, #2201)

Seconded by: Sean Silver 9613

Objected by: Carolyn Degenova (Last Word Toastmasters). Motion Carries.

10. District Annual Budget

Julia Grant (District 31 Treasurer) presented the Marketing expenses.

Mike O’Sullivan (IBS Toastmasters, Eastern Middlesex) – Asked why the Travel expense was budgeted \$5,000 less this year compared to the previous year.

Tom Weber (District 31 Parliamentarian) stated that travel expenses were less this year because the international conference was held locally this year.

Esther Paris (Division G Governor) – Asked for an explanation of various expenses, including the expenses for membership growth, recognition, distinguished clubs, speech contest, travel within district, speech contest and other.

Ben Lappen (Lieutenant Governor Marketing) stated that membership growth campaigns included direct mail to businesses, media blitzes, trade shows, job fairs, and association networks. Contest expenses include gift certificates. Recognition expenses include contests, demo teams, and club sponsors.

Tom Weber (District 31 Parliamentarian) stated that the “Other” expenses included pre-orders for bookstores. Also, the speech contest expense includes the cost of trophies.

Esther Paris (Division G Governor) – Asked why contest kits were not properly distributed. She would also like to receive official certifications from world headquarters with the international Toastmaster logo, not the district “Take Center Stage” logo.

Tom Weber (District 31 Parliamentarian) stated that contest kits would be sent going forward in the spring.

Motion to accept the budget: Deb Panetta (Rumney Marsh Toastmasters #8431)

Seconded: Doug Sheadel (Westford Expressions, AccelOrators Advanced Toastmasters)

Five members declined. Motion carries.

11. Treasurer's Report

Cherylle Garnes (Paul D Stackpole Service Club, # 7034) – Asked how to categorize conference expenses.

Julia Grant (District 31 Treasurer) stated that conferences fall in the “Other Net Income” category.

Nathan Larson (EMC Hopkinton) – Asked why information from the Treasurer's Report is not placed on the Internet, similar to other businesses and organizations.

Deb Fox 9971 – Asked about the progressively declining starting balance each year.

Julia Grant (District 31 Treasurer) commented on the complex accounting system.
She said she will *“research and put the answer online.”*

Tom Weber (District 31 Parliamentarian) stated the \$28,000 starting budget is off by only \$15.

Shirley Rieven (Clinton Club, #7677) – Asked when Business Meeting packet is compiled and if there is any way to distribute materials in advance of the meeting.

Tom Weber (District 31 Parliamentarian) stated that it is not a requirement to mail the Business Meeting packet and mentioned the additional mailing costs that would be involved.

Objections to Treasurer's report: Cherylle Garnes (Paul D Stackpole Service Club, # 7034)

The Treasurer's report was accepted with amendment

12. Lieutenant Governor Education & Training Report

Bill Lewis (DTM, Lieutenant Governor) presented the Education and Training report. He spoke of the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) training, which had between 400-500 attendees. The feedback forms collected after the TLI training sessions were positive.

13. Marketing Report

The Marketing report was presented by Ben Lappen (Lt. Governor of Marketing). At the time of meeting: 142 clubs paid dues, 15 clubs did not renew, 3 clubs had errors with renewals and 2 clubs expired.

Additional content of the report can be found in the Business Meeting packet.

14. Public Relations Report

Presented by Dan Barret (ACS, District 31 Public Relations Officer). He spoke of recent press releases in local newspapers and creation of a strong web presence with the District 31 website.

Additional content of the report can be found in the Business Meeting packet.

15. District Governors Report

The District Governors Report was presented by Sheri Raftery (DTM, District 31 Governor).

- Reappointed Division D Governor. Susan Van Abs stepped into the role, replacing Sheila Sullivan.
- Mary Yebba C4 Area Governor replacing – need to replace Area D2 Governor – Malik Rashid
- Proposition A was passed. Region 7 will become Region 9.
- No present International Director

16. Additional Business

The Spring District conference will be held on May 15, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel - Dedham, MA.

The District Governor entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. With no objections, the Business Meeting was adjourned at 2pm.