

## Immediate Past District Governor Report to the District Council, November 2015

### Luanne Kent

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the District Leadership Team for the last four years. Each year has presented its unique challenges; however, the good thing about a challenge is that it provides an opportunity for us to grow. In turn, I encourage each of you to challenge yourselves and accept opportunities for personal growth whenever you can—you may find it frustrating at times, but you won't regret it.

2014-2015 was our first year as a reformed District and as such was a challenging year. We must achieve a minimum 3% each of member payment growth and net new clubs to qualify for the Distinguished District Program. We did not achieve these goals; therefore, we did not achieve Distinguished District status. This is especially disappointing since District 71 had the longest record of Distinguished District Status in the world.

Following were our key rankings:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Member Payment Growth | 0.34%   |
| Net Club Growth       | -1.15%* |
| Distinguished Clubs   | 72.99%  |

\*Net club growth of -2 (7 new clubs; 9 clubs suspended/unpaid)

We entered the year with several struggling clubs that eventually closed; this adversely affected our net club growth. Our member growth was also extremely low. This was in part due to us now having a larger percentage of clubs that cease to meet in the summer months. This has a huge impact on our member growth since we effectively lose three months of possible member growth in many of our clubs.

Therefore, I encourage all members of the Council to promote and encourage club coaches, sponsors and mentors. Also, please encourage your clubs to meet until at least June 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of our Toastmaster year—and then to plan some type of activity in July/August to encourage new members to join before the summer recess. (Remember, our members are paying for twelve months of service)

However, while our key rankings are disappointing, we did rank 9<sup>th</sup> in the world for Distinguished clubs with 127 of 174 achieving Distinguished status—and this is so important because Distinguished Clubs are a measure of our success in meeting the needs of our members. Additionally, 765 educational awards were achieved

|        |            |       |
|--------|------------|-------|
| CC-297 | CL-192     | DTM-9 |
| ACB-89 | ALB-91     |       |
| ACS-40 | ALS-10     |       |
| ACG-23 | LDREXC*-14 |       |

\*LDREXC awarded on completion of High Performance Leadership Program

While we did not enjoy the success as a District as in previous years, there were still so many people who worked so hard and deserve high praise and thanks. So thank you to our club sponsors and mentors and all others who were involved in helping us to build new clubs. I know that this can sometimes be a challenging, but rewarding, task. I also thank our club coaches for helping to rebuild our struggling clubs, and we certainly had a lot of people working very hard at the end of our year in order to save several clubs.

Huge thanks to my fellow District Trio officers: Kevin Lee, LGET and Michael Collins, LGM, who provided me with great help and support. Thank you too to Patricia O'Reilly, our tireless and very patient Secretary, Joseph Brady our District Treasurer and Cecil Kirk, our long-standing parliamentarian. I also want to sincerely thank all those that stepped in as committee chairs/members and the members of our 2014-15 Council for your hard work and support throughout the past year.

...And now as I close, I'm reminded of Teresa Dukes' tag line in her recent successful bid for International Director, "Together We Can Make It Better." So my wish for the coming year is that we all work together to make it better and to bring back the successes of District 71, a strong, proud District.

With Gratitude,  
Luanne Kent  
2014-15 District 71 Governor