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| Call to Order (Welcome, Invocation, District Mission, Apologies, Moment of Reflection) |
| Phil Heath District Public Relations Officer (PRO) opened the meeting and dealt with administrative guidelines. He then handed control to Kevin Lee, Lt. Governor Education & Training (LGET).  Kevin welcomed everyone and requested an amendment to the Agenda for special business. The amendment was proposed by Eddie O’Mahony, Division A Governor, and seconded by John Burns, Division C Governor  Kevin then informed the Council that Ciaran Moore submitted his resignation as District Governor. Kevin read out a letter from Ciaran Moore setting out his resignation as District Governor for personal reasons. Ciaran’s resignation was effective from midnight 6th November. Kevin then referred to Article VII Paragraph F of the District Administrative Bylaws in relation to the filling of the role of District Governor in the wake of Ciaran’s resignation which reads as follows:-  **“*Vacancies***  *A vacancy in any elective office shall be filled by the district executive committee based upon the recommendation of the district governor, or upon recommendation of the highest elected district officer if the vacancy is in the office of district governor. Such appointment shall become effective immediately and will run until the next succeeding district council meeting at which time such appointment shall be confirmed or another individual member elected to the office. If the office of immediate past district governor is vacated for any reason, it shall stay vacant for the remainder of the term.*” As the highest elected district officer, Kevin recommended the appointment of Luanne Kent, Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG) to replace Ciaran as District Governor. The recommendation was presented to the District Executive Committee (DEC) at the 7:00 am meeting this morning and the DEC approved and proposed that the appointment be presented to Council for confirmation. The proposal was seconded by Ronnie Gillanders. *Confirmation of Luanne’s appointment* as District Governor 2014-2015 *was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, the appointment was confirmed by unanimous consent.* Luanne then assumed control of the meeting and welcomed all and  * Stated that she is pleased to be District Governor again especially in this Toastmasters 90 anniversary year and more especially in this first year of our new District 71 and  Outlined the structure of the District Council and how it serves as the administrative governing body of the District and therefore is responsible for conducting and approving the business of the District and  * Explained that we were a Select District last year but that we WILL BE a Presidents District this year.   Luanne then introduced Dermot O’Brien, Area 26 Governor, to offer words of inspiration. He chose an extract from Ralph C. Smedley’s book.  Following the invocation, Luanne conducted the following business: Reviewed Toastmasters Vision and District Mission as well as our District 71 vision  * Recognised past District Governors, Cecil Kirk and special visitors, Morag Mathieson, Regional 11 Advisor. * Introduced District Officers at the ‘top table.’  Luanne then conducted our Moment of Reflection to recognise recently deceased members: Colm Wynne, Engineers Toastmasters and AIB Toastmasters; Dave King, Talking Heads Toastmasters; Sheila Price and Helena Ryan, Clonmel Toastmasters; Pat McCarthy, Blarney Toastmasters; Luanne then provided an overview of the meeting protocol. |
| Adoption of Agenda |
| *Adoption of the agenda, as published in the Council Pack with the addition of the “special business to approve the new District Governor”, was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged; the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.* |
| Credentials Committee Report and Appointment of Tellers |
| Cecil Kirk, District Parliamentarian, delivered the report of the Credentials committee, as follows:  Report is as follows:  Number of Clubs Eligible: 169  Quorum (1/3) = 57  District Executive Committee members: 53  Votes Available:  Clubs Accredited: 54 X 2 votes per club = 108 club votes available  District Executive Committee (DEC) Members= 29  Total Votes Available = 137  Simple Majority = 69  Quorum has been met.  *Approval of the Credentials Committee report was requested of the Council and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Acceptance of Minutes of Final D71 Council Meeting 10th May 2014 |
| *Approval of the minutes of the Final D71 Council Meeting 10th May 2014, as stated in the Council Pack was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| 1. **Acceptance of Minutes of D71 Reformed First Annual Council Meeting 10th May 2014** |
| *Approval of the minutes of the D71 Reformed First Annual Council Meeting 10th May 2014, as stated in the Council Pack was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Confirmation of Appointments |
| The following District Officer appointments have been made:-   |  |  | | --- | --- | | District Secretary | Patricia O’Reilly | | District Treasurer | Joseph Brady | | District Parliamentarian | Cecil Kirk |   Additional appointments were as follows:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Elaine Hayden | Audit Committee Member, | | Brendan Haughton | Youth Leadership Coordinator | | Patrick Devaney | Speechcraft Coordinator | | Eric Fitzpatrick | District Chief Judge. |   Also a new area was added to the District and two Area Governors have resigned. The new appointments to these roles are:-   |  |  | | --- | --- | | New Area 6 Governor, Division E | John Cox | | Division G, Area 20 Governor | Ian Perry (to replace Casey Boyd) | | Division C, Area 57 Governor | Peter Kieran (to replace Sinead Moore) |   *Approval of all of the above appointments was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| 2013 - 2014 Year End Treasurer’s Report |
| Patrick Devaney, Immediate Past District Treasurer, presented the 2013/2014 Year End Report. Patrick said that it would be a challenge spending the money. Fionnuala Greene, Cashel TM, wondered why spending the money would be a challenge.  Luanne thanked the members of the Audit Committee - Michael Dineen, Committee chair, Eugene Lucey and Larry Power and the Immediate Past District Treasurer, Patrick Devaney for their hard work and support. *Approval of the 2013-2014 Year End Treasurers Report was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| 2014 – 2015 District 71 Budget and Treasurer’s Report |
| Joseph Brady, District Treasurer, presented the 2014/15 Budget and Treasurer’s Report. He outlined TI policy on the use of funds. He advised that the final Budget had been discussed and agreed at the meeting of the District Executive Committee in September. There was one question raised seeking clarification on the breakdown of the Marketing spend and Joseph explained that if we spent 100% on marketing we would have nothing to allocate anywhere else.    Luanne thanked Joseph for his hard work in putting the budget together.    *Approval of the 2014-2015 District 71 Budget and Treasurer’s Report was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| District Success Plan |
| **District Success Plan:**  Luanne advised that last year our District was honoured as a Select Distinguished District. It was in fact the top Select Distinguished District in the world. She explained that the reason we did not achieve Presidents Distinguished was because our new club growth fell a bit short of the required number. Luanne reiterated that Presidents Distinguished is our goal this year and to achieve this we need to finish the year with 188 clubs. She explained how Member Payments are counted and stressed the importance of clubs paying membership monies to TI as soon as they are received.  Although the criteria for the Distinguished Clubs goal is 50%, we should aim for 85% as we have always been a world leader for Distinguished clubs and want to continue. However, even 85% will not guarantee number one in the world  Luanne reviewed the current status of our critical success factors, which is as follows:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Goal** | **Criteria to achieve PD** | **Target to Achieve** | **Current Status** | | Goal 1 : Member Payments Growth | 8% growth - Base 9,524 | 10,286 | 3,698 | | Goal 2: Club Growth | 8% growth - Base 174 | 188  Net Growth 14 | 169 | | Goal 3: Distinguished Clubs – criteria 50% | 85% | 148 | TBD Apr 1 | |
| Continued and New Business |
| Luanne explained that at our Council meeting in May 2014, the DEC forwarded a motion for the reformed District 71 to be designated “Ireland and Northern UK”, for marketing use etc. However, a request for Amendment to the Motion was proposed such that the new District 71 be referred to as “Ireland and Midlands, Eastern & Northern UK” to further define the district location. After much debate from the floor, a motion was put forward and accepted to Table the Decision.  Luanne went on to advise that this was discussed at our DEC meeting this morning and considering the amount of debate, the DEC has now withdrawn the motion for using the geographical descriptor of “Ireland and Northern UK” and has forwarded a request to council that the issue be sent to to committee for further investigation. The committee will include a representative from each of Divisions C, M, E, G, and S. Luanne then asked anyone interested in serving on this committee to make contact with her over the weekend.  *Approval to send the Geographical Descriptor for District 71 to Committee was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Future Conferences |
| **Bids for Future Conferences:**  John Cox gave us an update on the status of the Nottingham Robin Hood Conference to be held in May 2015 and looked for final approval. This will be held in a conference centre with about 10 hotels nearby. Accommodation reasonable. There will be entertainment and speakers.  *Final Approval of the Nottingham Robin Hood Conference May 2015 was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.*  Luanne opened the floor to bids for conferences for November 2015 and beyond. The following proposals were presented:-  **November 2015 –** 13-15 November 2015 presented by Graham Frost – Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre, Bedfordshire – equidistant from Luton & Stansted.    **May 2016 - Limerick** presented by Michael Collins – near Shannon and Dublin Airports.  **November 2016 – Dublin** presented by Peter Kieran – Regency Airport Hotel on the north side near Dublin Airport. A Viking theme.  Larry Power looked for clarification re holding of conferences in particular his understanding was that conferences are split between Ireland & UK. Luanne stated that this was correct, that last May 2014 and November 2014 were in Ireland and the next calendar year (2015) both conferences would be in the UK. Alan O’Flynn questioned splitting conferences between UK and Ireland. In particular his concern was that there would be three conferences in succession in a sterling region and this impacted on people living in the euro area. He suggested going down the line if it would be possible to have one conference in a euro area and one conference in a sterling area in the one calendar year if that would be possible. Eoin McDunphy concurred with Alan O’Flynn that conferences should alternate between Ireland and the UK one after the other or between a euro region and a sterling region. Luanne said that in the Toastmaster’s year the conferences did alternate but she understood that what Alan and Eoin were saying was that it might be better if they alternated in the calendar year. Luanne said that the District would be willing to discuss it afterwards. She said that anyone is welcome to bring up anything. She asked Alan to please keep in touch with us on that and at the next Council meeting you can certainly make a motion on this. Clarification on this matter was given by Kevin Lee. He said that he appreciated the comment that although the current conference is being held in Ireland it is within a sterling area. He said this was the bid available to the District at the time and it was a very strong bid. He said that while the intention is to provide each District Governor a conference within the mainland and the United Kingdom, as long as these are forthcoming and as these were agreed at previous Council meetings they will be kept in motion until a further Council motion is asked to change the current format. Luanne said that she would encourage everyone to talk to their clubs and members about this and get their views and bring it to the Council as a motion.  *Approval for the above conferences to continue their investigations to host a future conference and to build a business case was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Toastmasters International Update |
| Luanne provided Toastmaster International updates:   * Our worldwide membership is 313,000 strong and we have 14,650 clubs in 126 countries. * The official anniversary of Toastmasters International is **October 22, 1924** and as such, shared a few interesting facts. * Luanne asked if anyone knew Ralph C. Smedley’s middle name and Bridget Elliott of West Limerick and Failte clubs quickly responded with the correct answer; which is Chestnut. Luanne awarded Bridget with a Toastmaster mug for her outstanding knowledge of Toastmaster trivia. * The first District was organized in 1934. * The first non-North America club organized was in Southport, England. * The first complete District outside of the United States was organised in Scotland (District 18, organized in July 1946) * Membership was opened to women in 1973   Luanne also advised that Morag Mathieson, our Regional Advisor, is here and will be presenting a workshop on Sunday morning on the Revitalised Education Program. |
| District Reports |
| Luanne advised that the Division Governors presented their reports at the meeting of the DEC earlier this morning. The District Leadership Team were then invited to present their reports to Council (full reports contained in Council Pack):  PRO Report, presented by Phil Heath   * External PR Chantel has been retained for another year and has been busy promoting toastmasters throughout the District. Articles submitted by members have appeared on the web, in print and on radio. We are featured on all social media sites. Speech Contest videos will be uploaded on YouTube to encourage people to see how good conferences are. There is a template tool for articles.   LGM Report, presented by Michael Collins   * At start of year net growth of 14 clubs was an aspiration but is now looking more like a reality. 3 new clubs already. A marketing working group has been set up. We are investing as a District in trade shows and these are proving very successful.   LGET Report, presented by Kevin Lee   * The focus is to support the member to achieve their educational awards. Already we have 3 DTMs and 3 Triple Crowns. Focus also on the Youth Leadership Program and Speechcraft by the appointment of YLP & Speechcraft coordinators and on improving judging across the District by the appointment of a District Chief Judge. We were encouraged to invite these people to give workshops at clubs, COT & DOT. Conferences – the driving issue is the break-even point of an attendance of approximately 150.   In her IPDG report, Luanne stated that we finished as a Select Distinguished District. We had 81.4% of our clubs achieve Distinguished status or better and she urged us to continue the hard work. She also thanked last year’s DLT and Cecil for their hard work and support.  Luanne acknowledged the reports and the hard work and support of the current District Leadership Team. She reminded us that we all need to assist if we are to meet our goals and she called for support for pre-charter clubs. She stressed that the main focus should be the member and maintaining quality clubs. |
| Any other Business |
| Luanne said that this year we will be looking at re-alignments and she asked DEC members to be willing to share their suggestions. |
| Announcements and Adjournment |
| Kevin Lee announced that Radio Ulster will be present tomorrow (Sunday) morning at the conference. Brendan Haughton, YLP Coordinator, advised that there is a new virtual division on the District website for YLP and Speechcraft called Division Y.  Luanne thanked everyone in attendance and again thanked everyone for the opportunity to be District Governor again. She advised us to “go forth and multiply”. |