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| Call to Order (Welcome, Invocation, District Mission, Apologies, Moment of Reflection) |
| Peter Kieran SAA opened the meeting and dealt with administrative guidelines. He then handed control to Luanne Kent, District Governor (DG).  Luanne welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that as members of the District Council they serve an important role in the governance of the District. She also explained the role of the District Council as the administrative governing body of the District.  Luanne then introduced Sheila Lewis, East Midlands Speakers, to offer words of inspiration. Her words of inspiration included a quote from Thomas J. Watson, founder of IBM:-  “Would you like me to give you a formula for success? It’s quite simple, really. Double your rate of failure.”  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, Harry Knox and David Thompson. * Introduced District Officers at the ‘top table.’  Luanne then conducted our Moment of Reflection to recognise recently deceased members: Tom McGrath, founding member Ennis T0oastmaster; Tim Ahern, Tralee Toastmasters; Margaret Abraham, founding member Leeds City Toastmasters; Valerie Dale, Ipswich Electrifers who only joined at the age of 83; Conor Cummins, Hellfire; Liam O’Hoisín, Glasnevin; J.J. Macken, Rathfarnham; Liam Browne who was in his 92nd year, Engineers Toastmasters and Ireland’s first radio rugby commentator; John Lynam, Tara Toastmasters & Rathfarnham & a former Area 18 Governor Luanne then provided an overview of the meeting protocol. |
| Adoption of Agenda |
| *Adoption of the agenda 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:  Appointment of Tellers as follows:- Jane Craggs; David Hopkins; Ian Perry; Brian Holland  Report is as follows:  Number of Clubs Eligible: 173  Quorum (1/3) = 58  District Executive Committee members: 53  Votes Available:  Clubs Accredited: 55 X 2 votes per club = 110 club votes available  District Executive Committee (DEC) Members= 29  Total Votes Available = 139  Simple Majority = 70  Quorum has not been met.  As the meeting is inquorate, we will seek approval offline from the District Council. Luanne explained the procedure as follows:- In the event that any business is transacted at any district council meeting at which a quorum is not present, the action shall be deemed as valid as if a quorum were present if it thereafter is expressly approved in writing, personally, by mail, fax, email, electronic transmission or other reasonable means, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the member clubs in the district on the basis of two (2) votes per club.  *Approval of the Credentials Committee report & appointment of Tellers was requested of the Council and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Acceptance of Minutes of Council Meeting 8th November 2014 |
| *Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting 8th November 2014, as distributed, was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Confirmation of Appointments |
| **Changes to the Council since the last Council meeting:**  In Division A Eddie O’Mahony was replaced by Raymond Ryan as Division A Governor  In Division A James Keating was replaced by Helen Houricane as Area 11 Governor  In Division D Lorna Poole was replaced by Dermot Dineen as Area 40 Governor  *Approval of all of the above appointments was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| 2014 - 2015 Mid-Year Audit and Treasurer’s Report |
| Joseph Brady, District Treasurer, presented the 2014/15 Mid-year Audit and Treasurers Report. Clarification was sought on two matters:-   1. Is the available funds 71,000 as it’s not very clear on the handout or slide – it was confirmed by Joseph Brady that the available funds is 75,000. 2. has the deposit for the NPC (National Ploughing Championships) been paid for next year – it was confirmed by Joseph Brady that this would be paid out of next year’s budget.   Laura Bruce, Inverness, asked if there were more detailed accounts available. Joseph said that detailed accounts are provided to TI. At the District Council we follow TI policy and use a summary.    Luanne thanked the members of the Audit Committee - Derek Molloy, committee chair, MichelleMcNamara, and Elaine Hayden and also District Treasurer, Joseph Brady for their hard work and support. *Approval of the 2014-2015 Mid-Year Audit and Treasurer’s Report was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| Continued and New Business (Reports and Motions) |
| Luanne explained that the DEC is responsible for deciding motions to send to the Council for final approval and a DEC Meeting was held on April 29th to review and decide motions to be sent for approval.  Motions sent by the DEC do not require a second from the floor since the DEC is what is referred to as “a committee of the body” and is therefore assumed to have the second of the committee.  Motions can be raised from the floor; however, motions from the floor will require a proposer and a seconder.  **Committees:-** This year we had three committees made up of representatives from divisions within the District:-   * Geographical Descriptor Naming Committee * Alignment Committee * Nominations Committee |
| **7a.**  **Geographical Descriptor Naming Committee Report** |
| The Naming Committee consisted of the following members:-   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Div | Name | | C | Michael Dineen | | E | Jan Antons | | G | Gary Sander | | S | Jim Boyd |   Luanne explained that 3 options were put forward by the Naming Committee as follows:-  **Option 1:  Ireland and Eastern, Midlands, Northern UK**  **Option 2:  Ireland and Eastern, Midlands & Northern Britain**  **Option 3:**   **Ireland, Scotland & the Danelaw\***  **\*** *The line used to divide District 71 & 91 follows the line of the ancient division of Saxon and Viking Britain. The Viking part being known as the Danelaw*  Luanne went on to explain that the options for the Geographical Description for District 71 as discussed by the committee were reported at the DEC meeting. There was much discussion and alternate suggestions and it quickly became apparent that again this issue would not be resolved in a timely manner. Therefore, it was decided to table the motion again and so the motion has been removed.  Luanne said that it’s probably best to continue with the description as submitted to TI at the time of the reformation. However, as suggested on the DEC this will be reviewed again and we will try to come up with a good name.  There being no questions, Luanne thanked all for their contribution, time, and effort for serving on this committee. |
| **7b. Alignment Committee Report** |
| The Alignment Committee consisted of the following members:-   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Div** | **Name** | | A | Ray Ryan | | C | Seamus Hynes | | D | Peter Butler | | E | Jan Antons | | F | Ronnie Gillanders, Chair | | G | Robert Brooke | | M | Karen O’Donnell |     Luanne explained TI guidelines on re-alignment as follows*:-* It is a requirement per TI Policy that an Alignment Committee reviews the District Alignment each year. Alignments that do not meet policy requirements will not be accepted by WHQ. Therefore, the alignment committee must ensure that the alignment is within policy prior to sending it forward.  Luanne then introduced Ronnie Gillanders, chair of the Alignment Committee. Ronnie thanked his committee. He said there are 39 Areas in the District and one-third needed realignment. He said that Areas do not follow county borders. He outlined the changes as per the summary below:-    There’s a new Division B made up of A17, A36, F13 & F24  There are two new Areas M7 & G14  Peter Kieran, IE Templebar, asked why C2 was being put into Division M. This meant that Division C now has only 20 clubs while Division M has 27 clubs. He believes that this will impact on Division C and future leaders of the Division. He said that the geographical size hadn’t been addressed. Ronnie replied that Northern Ireland is a big area and he believes that Division C will move further north in the coming years. He said the change in C2 is a short term thing.  Brendan Haughton, as proxy Wicklow and President Powertalk said that moving C2 will strengthen C & M going forward. He said it’s a good interim arrangement and should ultimately lead to a new Division.  John Schell questioned which club in G44 was non-existent and was advised that this was Cambridge University.  There being no questions, Luanne thanked all for their contribution, time, and effort for serving on this committee.  *Approval of the Realignment as approved by the DEC was requested of the Council, and with no objections being lodged, approval was accepted by unanimous consent.* |
| **7c. Nominations Committee Report & Elections** |
| The Nominations Committee consisted of the following members:-   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Div** | **Name** | F | Geraldine Smith-Chair | | A | Bridget Elliott | E | None | | C | John Mulligan | G | Dave McNaughter | | D | Fidelma Collins |   The Nominations Committee interviewed each candidate twice and they approved the following candidates:-   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **District Leadership Team** | | | **Role** | **Candidate** | | District Director  (formerly District Governor) | Kevin Lee | | Program Quality Director  (formerly LGET) | Michael Collins | | Club Growth Director  (formerly LGM) | Robert (Red) Skelton | | Public Relations Manager  (formerly PRO) |  | | Patricia O'Reilly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **District Director Candidates (formerly District Governor)** | | | | | | | **Division** | **Candidate** |  | **Division** | | **Candidate** | | A | Brenda Nestor |  | F | John Waldron | | | C |  |  | G | Robert Brooke | | | D | Patricia Loughnane |  | Constance Turner | | | Mary Reynolds |  | M | Michael Dineen | | | E | Janet Antons |  | S | Eoin McDunphy | | | Michael Rickwood |  | Oscar Merkx | |  * Nominations were read and requests for nominations from the floor was opened for each of the roles * For uncontested roles –the Secretary was requested to cast one vote for each and thereby declare these candidates elected to office; for contested roles, election was by secret ballot.   The DD, PQD, CGD, PRM, Div A Dir, and Div F Dir roles were uncontested and the Secretary cast one vote for each of these and they were all declared elected to office.  **Contested Roles:**  **Division C Director**: 2 contestants from the floor  Barry Lane – proposed by Bea Metzler and seconded by Peter Kieran C57 Area Governor  Angela Turtoczki – proposed by Laura Bruce and seconded by Alan O’Flynn    Upon a query being raised by Harry Knox as to the eligibility of both contestants it was confirmed that both were eligible.  The vote for the Division C Director was a tie. Cecil stated we should take another vote; however, Harry Knox felt that Luanne should cast the deciding vote. However, Luanne said that she and Celcil would review Roberts Rules of Order to ensure the correct procedure was followed.  While they reviewed, Luanne turned control of the meeting over to Kevin Lee in order not to delay the meeting. Kevin then called on the DLT members to give their reports, which are included in section 8 of these minutes.  Meanwhile, Laura Bruce located the details on the internet and brought it forward for review by Luanne and Cecil.  Roberts Rules stated that in the event of a tied vote, the chair casts the deciding vote provided the chair hasn’t already voted (in this case Luanne had already voted) If the chair has already voted then another vote is held and the chair’s vote will be held as the deciding vote should another tie occur. Luanne invited Harry to come forward and review the entire passage and Harry was satisfied and in agreement. Luanne thanked both Laura and Harry for coming forward.  The ballot was taken again for Division C Director with the following result.  **Division C Director election result**  Votes cast: 108  Spoiled: None  Angela Turtoczki: 57 votes  Barry Lane: 51 votes  Angela Turtoczki was declared elected as Division C Director  **Division D Director**: 2 nominated contestants  Patricia Loughnane  Mary Reynolds  **Division D Director election result**  Votes cast: 122  Spoiled: 2  Patricia Loughnane: 82 votes  Mary Reynolds: 38 votes  Patricia Loughnane was declared elected as Division D Director  **Division E Director**: 2 nominated contestants  Janet Antons  Michael Rickwood  **Division E Director election result**  Votes cast: 111  Spoiled: none  Janet Antons: 101  Michael Rickwood: 10  Janet Antons was declared elected as Division E Director  **Division G Director** – 2 nominated contestants  Robert Brooke  Constance Turner  **Division G Director election result**  Votes cast: 114  Spoiled: 1  Robert Brooke: 51  Constance Turner: 62  Constance Turner was declared elected as Division G Director  **Division M Director** – 1 nominated contestant and 1 contestant from the floor  Michael Dineen (nominated)  Karen O’Donnell (from floor – proposed by Brendan Haughton, seconded by Ronnie Gillanders)  **Division M Director election result**  Votes cast: 112  Spoiled: none  Karen O’Donnell: 100 votes  Michael Dineen: 12 votes  Karen O’Donnell was declared elected as Division M Director  **Division S Director** – 2 nominated contestants  Eoin McDunphy  Oscar Merkx  **Division S Director election result**  Votes cast: 109  Spoiled: 2  Eoin McDunphy: 84  Oscar Merkx: 23  Eoin McDunphy was declared elected as Division S Director  The results of the election is as follows:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **District Leadership Team** | | | **Role** | **Candidate** | | District Director | Kevin Lee | | Program Quality Director | Michael Collins | | Club Growth Director | Robert (Red) Skelton | | PR Manager | Patricia O'Reilly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **District Director Candidates (formerly District Governor)** | | | | | | | **Division** | **Candidate** |  | **Division** | | **Candidate** | | A | Brenda Nestor |  | G | Constance Turner | | | D | Patricia Loughnane |  | M | Karen O’Donnell | | | E | Janet Antons |  | S | Eoin McDunphy | | | F | John Waldron |  |  |  | |   With regard to the new Division B, Luanne asked anyone who is interested to submit their names and the incoming District Director will conduct interviews and a new Division B Director will be appointed. |
| 1. **District Recognition Program and Reports** |
| The Division Governor Reports were shared during the recent DEC meeting and they were also posted on the website for review.  Phil Heath PRO was called on to give his report – articles by members have been published on the web, in print and on radio – 2 features in the Sunday Financial Times – featured on all social media sites – successful trade shows National Ploughing Championship in Ireland & Buy Yorkshire in the UK.  Michael Collin LGM – 7 new club coaches have been appointed – huge effort invested in targeting corporates re starting clubs – 6 new clubs and more to come – 43 clubs rose to the challenge to get 5+ members between 1st Jan to 31st Mar and each received a lectern banner.  Kevin Lee LGET – lots of workshops organised by clubs and members – YLP doing very well – 85.6% of clubs had 4 or more trained at COT2 – 5 clubs had 7 trained – 5 DTMs – 12 Triple Crowns – 75 Distinguished Clubs with 4 Presidents Distinguished.  Luanne Kent DG – there are 89 clubs who haven’t achieved one CC yet – 900 graced members so please encourage graced members to renew – we have the longest record in the year for being distinguished – we need to be distinguished on all 3 goals of Member Payments, Club Growth and Distinguished Clubs to finish a Distinguished District – closing clubs in the summer is not good – every club should meet until at least the end of June and organise special events in July & August – a PC club that ceases to meet in the summer is not good.  Luanne then thanked all of the members of the Council for their assistance throughout the year. |
| Future Conferences |
| November 2015 – Wyboston Lakes – Graham Frost seeking final approval. **Final approval by unanimous consent**.  May 2016 – Limerick – special guest will be our current International President, Mohammed Murad– **Final approval by unanimous consent.**  November 2016 – expression of interest by Peter Kieran for Dublin in the Regency Hotel November 11-13. **Approval to continue investigation by unanimous consent**.  May 2017 – none  November 2017 – Ken Siviter Area Governor E48 requesting permission for Warrington. No objections so can continue to investigate.  2018 – Tralee Toastmasters either Spring or Autumn |
| Toastmasters International Update |
| Luanne provided Toastmaster International updates:  Our District is one of 96 across the world - over 313, 000 members in 14,650 clubs in 126 countries - a truly worldwide organisation.  The top story is the Revitalised Education Programme (REP).  We were given an overview of the REP. The enhanced program will offer:   * Tailored learning to help members meet personal and professional goals * Communication and leadership skills relevant to real-world experiences in a globally evolving marketplace * A clearer path for achieving education awards   Programme to improve the legal tax and regulatory status of Toastmasters in the UK is still in progress and we are a priority  In order to remove any liability from our District Officers, TI opened a Bank account for the District in TI’s name since July 2014. |
| Any other Business |
| NONE |
| Announcements and Adjournment |
| Our next Council meeting will be held on 14th November 2015 at the Black Cat Conference in Wyboston Lakes. Luanne thanked everyone in attendance for their time, attention and support. |