

District 8 Toastmasters

District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Type: District Executive Committee Meeting

Date: January 19, 2026

Location: Zoom

Called to Order By: District Director Patti Howard, DTM

Recorded By: Terri Orban, Administrative Manager

1. Call to Order

District Director Patti Howard called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Clarification was made that the meeting was a DEC meeting, and while some club officers were present, attendance was primarily required for District Leadership Team members, Division Directors, and Area Directors.

2. Attendance

District Leadership

- Patti Howard — District Director
- Jackie Kam-Blackard — Program Quality Director
- Kesha Kent, DTM — Club Growth Director
- Terri Orban — Administrative Manager
- Lisa Campbell — Finance Manager
- Mark Bean, DTM — District Logistics Manager
- Deborah Woods — Public Relations Manager
- Andrew Welter — District Statistician
- Charice Manor, DTM — Immediate Past District Director

District Chairs / Committee Roles

- Annetta Works Salley, DTM — Club Retention Chair
- Helen Dotson, DTM — Speakers Bureau / CC President

Division Directors

- Tim Scarbrough — Division C Director

Area Directors

- Candace Alba-Marshall — Area 18
- Eric Ulvestad — Area 1
- Kathy Dieker — Area 6
- Dawnella Bowser — Area 11

Realignment Committee

- Elaine Curry, DTM, D21 Transition Chair
- Bonnie Tippey, DTM, D211 DLC Chair

Additional Participants

- Sandra Swearingen — O'Fallon Toastmasters (VPE)
- Linda Leasman
- Jim Kohli, PID (Guest/Advisor)

3. District Director Report

District Director Patti Howard provided updates on current district priorities, continued support for clubs, leadership engagement across the district, and the importance of Area Directors maintaining communication with clubs.

Leadership Challenge - Complete home club's CSP; Complete one Pathway level and sponsor at least one member

- All had the club's CSP completed on time
- 20 have completed one PW level
- No one has sponsored a new member

4. Program Quality Report (PQD)

Program Quality Director Jackie Kam-Blackard discussed club officer training progress and upcoming training sessions. Area Directors were encouraged to remind clubs about training requirements.

Speech Contest Updates

Area and Division speech contests are underway. Division contests will determine contestants advancing to the District Conference.

5. Club Growth Report (CGD)

Club Growth Director Kesha Kent, DTM provided updates on membership initiatives and strategies to help clubs increase membership through drives and open houses.

6. Club Retention Report

Annetta Works Salley, DTM discussed identifying struggling clubs and providing district support, mentorship, and early intervention strategies.

7. District Statistics Report

District Statistician Andrew Welter reviewed district metrics including membership numbers and Distinguished Club Program progress.

8. Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Deborah Woods discussed promotion of district events and encouraging clubs to increase social media visibility.

9. District Conference Updates

Planning updates were shared regarding the upcoming District Conference, including contests, logistics, and promotional efforts.

10. Administrative Manager Report

Administrative Manager Terri Orban provided updates on the district website initiative, including progress on the new website and improvements to usability and content access. New website launches in mid-February, www.midwestspeakers.org.

11. Area Director Updates

Area Directors provided updates regarding club visits, challenges faced by clubs, and support needed from district leadership.

12. Additional Discussion

Topics included leadership development opportunities, district transition planning, and ongoing support for clubs experiencing membership challenges.

13. Action Items

- Encourage club officer training completion — Area Directors
- Promote District Conference attendance — All District Leaders
- Continue supporting struggling clubs — Club Retention Team
- Update district website content — District Leadership

14. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with reminders for district leaders to continue supporting their clubs and promoting district initiatives.