

Meeting summary for D8 DEC Meeting 5/17/25 (05/17/25)

Quick recap

The meeting covered various updates and reports from different members, including finance, club growth, and divisional progress, with discussions on membership goals and pathways enrollment. Administrative tasks were addressed, including officer appointments, upcoming events like the TLI and Hall of Fame luncheon, and the need for clubs to meet new recognition criteria. The group explored challenges with achieving distinguished club status under new international requirements and discussed strategies for maintaining and growing clubs effectively.

Summary

Club Growth and Financial Updates

The meeting began with Patti noting that several members were absent due to power outages, including Karen who was en route to Columbia to pick up her daughter. The agenda was adopted with one modification to allow Karen to provide her report remotely. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with two corrections: changing "District Deputy Director" to "District Director" and correcting Burchell's name spelling. Tom presented the finance report, noting a positive conference outcome with approximately \$500 surplus, which Patti explained was being reallocated to the education and training budget. Karen then provided the club growth report, highlighting that while there were 64 active clubs listed, the actual number was 70, with 2,164 paid renewals against a goal of 2,558. She emphasized the need for a final push on renewals, new member additions, and officer preparations before the July 1st deadline.

Division F Progress and Celebrations

Burchell reported on Division F's progress, noting 218 members with 15 of 18 clubs active and 277 members enrolled in pathways, though only 35% had completed at least one path level. Area visits were delayed due to scheduling conflicts and family emergencies, with 5 of 18 second-round visits completed (31%), aiming for 95% completion by month's end. Burchell also announced an upcoming Shalom Open House on Saturday to celebrate the club's 15th anniversary, which will include speech competitions and virtual attendance options.

Division Status and Club Initiatives

Sara reported on the division's current status, noting 262 members across 15 clubs, with 3 clubs in distinguished status and 5 others working toward it. She highlighted that 87% of members are enrolled in pathways, with only 34 people not enrolled, and announced plans to reach out to area directors to encourage enrollment. Sara also raised concerns about two incoming clubs, including Wash U Med Masters, which may be at risk of closure, and sought clarification on the plan for handling these clubs.

before they join the division. Patti and Karen provided updates on efforts to revive the Wash U Med Masters club, with Xavier involved in the process.

Strengthening Clubs and Speechcraft

Sara emphasized the importance of maintaining strong clubs rather than struggling to keep weak ones alive, expressing a preference for consolidation over division. Tim highlighted the need for more coaches in Division C and discussed the progress of speechcraft programs, noting that 5 students were participating in Southern Illinois Toastmasters, with potential for 2 new members. Patti encouraged others to observe the speechcraft program in action, mentioning that Jonalynn, a participant from the Philippines, was making good progress despite English being her second language.

Pathway Program Progress and Recognition

Patti discussed how clubs and members can achieve excellence through the pathways program, engaging in meetings, and taking on leadership roles. She emphasized the importance of recognizing clubs and members, even if they don't meet the criteria for distinguished status. Patti highlighted the achievements of 31 members who have completed at least three levels, and she encouraged acknowledging these accomplishments at meetings. She also mentioned that 30 toastmasters have completed two levels, and 42 clubs have completed multiple pathway levels. Patti noted that only 18 clubs have not completed a pathway level, down from 32 last month, and three clubs have achieved all seven educational goals.

Pathways Pilot and Leadership Updates

Patti discussed the Pathways Enrollment and Engagement Initiative Pilot, a 6-week course designed to increase engagement and benefit realization among members. She highlighted the success of the Ozark Orators club, which improved from 8 to 14 members and achieved educational goals through pathways engagement. Patti also announced the upcoming TLI (Toastmasters Leadership Institute) on June 28th at Southwestern Illinois College, which will include club officer training, division, and area training. Tom shared updates on the Hall of Fame awards luncheon scheduled for August 9th and the need for nominations for various awards, while also noting that Pamela Davis is ineligible for the club growth director role.

Administrative Updates and Program Progress

The meeting focused on several administrative tasks and updates. Tom inquired about a document related to an upcoming virtual meeting in June, which Patti could not provide information on. Patti discussed the need to appoint a new position, which would be voted on at the December meeting, and reminded clubs to submit officer lists to Club Central by July 1st for Goal 10B and to send copies to PQD@dist8pm.org for verification. Sharee highlighted Area 2's progress in the Distinguished Club Program, while Xavier mentioned upcoming meetings and potential new Area directors. Linda shared her

experience attending a meeting on Pathways enrollment and engagement, gaining a better understanding of the system.

Distinguished Club Program Membership Strategies

Patti and Sharee discussed the rules and strategies for the Distinguished Club Program, focusing on membership requirements and goal achievement. Patti explained that clubs need at least 20 members to qualify as distinguished, or their base number plus 3 if under 20. They explored different scenarios and strategies for adding members and achieving goals, emphasizing the importance of balancing club goals with individual members' needs. Sara provided additional examples using Aetna Toastmasters to illustrate different approaches to meeting membership and goal requirements.

Challenges in Toastmasters Recognition

The meeting focused on challenges with Toastmasters club recognition, particularly the difficulty of achieving distinguished club status due to new, stricter requirements from International. Sara expressed concern that these changes might prioritize paper members over active engagement, while Patti emphasized the importance of recognizing strong clubs even if they don't meet the new criteria. The group discussed upcoming changes including the requirement for club success plans and the need for leadership training, with Karen and others emphasizing the value of mentorship and encouraging continued involvement in the organization.

Next steps

- [All attendees to encourage club officers to submit club officer lists before July 1st.](#)
- [All attendees to send club officer lists to PQD@dist8tm.org for verification.](#)
- [Division Directors to continue interviewing and selecting Area Directors by May 31st.](#)
- [Xavier to share potential Area Director candidates with Patty by Tuesday or Wednesday.](#)
- [All attendees to consider nominating someone for the Club Growth Director position and pass the name to Patty.](#)
- [All attendees to submit nominations for Area Director of the Year, Division Director of the Year, Toastmaster of the Year, and Retired Toastmaster of the Year by June 7th.](#)
- [All attendees to consider attending the Pathways Enrollment and Engagement Initiative sessions on Thursdays at 12 noon or 7 PM.](#)
- [All attendees to encourage club presidents and VPEs to participate in the Pathways Enrollment and Engagement Initiative.](#)
- [All attendees to plan for attending the TLI scheduled for June 28th at Southwestern Illinois College in Granite City.](#)
- [Karen and Patty to work on balancing officer training and division/area director training at the TLI.](#)
- [Tom to send out the document referenced for the June 14th virtual DEC meeting.](#)
- [All attendees to consider assisting in planning the Hall of Fame awards luncheon on August 9th by emailing Cherise.](#)