



# District 8 Toastmasters – DEC Meeting Minutes

Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)

**Date:** November 22, 2025

**Location:** SWIC – Granite City, IL

**Presiding Officer:** District Director, **Patti Howard**

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## 1. Call to Order

The District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting was called to order by District Director **Patti Howard** during the District 8 TLI. Patti welcomed leaders, thanked them for their service, and introduced the agenda.

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## 2. Membership Growth & Retention

### 2.1 Personal Outreach

- Patti emphasized the effectiveness of **one-on-one, personal invitations** to bring guests and new members into clubs.
- Members were encouraged to ask coworkers, friends, and family for feedback and support in preparing speeches or presentations.

### 2.2 Sponsorship on Applications

- All members were reminded to **complete the “Sponsor” section** on new membership applications.
- TI has incentives for sponsorships, and the district will introduce additional recognition.

### 2.3 Supporting Members in Transition

- Members experiencing job loss or corporate club downsizing should be encouraged to visit or join other clubs.
  - Example shared: Jackie connected a guest with a job lead through networking at a club meeting.
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# 3. District 211 Transition (Reformation Update)

## 3.1 Overview

- Transition to **District 211** is officially underway.
- More details will be published in the early-December **Communic~8** newsletter.

## 3.2 Committees & Leadership Structure

- Committees for the transition will be announced soon.
- **Elaine Curry** serves as Transition Chair.
- Alignment and district leadership selection are being coordinated with supporting teams from other districts.

## 3.3 District Geography

- New district footprint expected to cover **Chicago to Des Moines, south of I-80**.

## 3.4 Statistical Support

- **Andrew Welter** is available to assist Area and Division Directors with historical and statistical interpretation.
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# 4. Distinguished Club Program & Club Support

## 4.1 Club Visits

- Patti reported visiting FRB Club, which is approaching its 39th anniversary.
- The club had not been Distinguished since Pathways began; she challenged them to reach Distinguished, and they've already begun progress.

## 4.2 Engage New Members

- Get new members involved immediately: timers, roles, participation in meetings, and team contributions.

## 4.3 Club Coach Opportunities

- Many clubs are in the 8–12-member range.
- Members working toward their **DTM** were encouraged to apply to serve as **Club Coaches**.
- Requirements:
  - Complete a 15-minute Pathways project at the club
  - Help club reach Distinguished
  - Submit credit by **December 31**

## 4.4 Club Growth (New Clubs)

- **Kesha** is actively working with new club prospects.
  - Club sponsors and mentors are being assigned earlier to ensure continuity and visibility.
  - Members interested in helping new clubs should contact Kesha.
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## 5. Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) Projects & Pathways Requirements

### 5.1 DTM Project Ideas

Patti highlighted that DTM projects:

- Do *not* need to be Toastmasters-focused
- May include:
  - Church centennial celebrations
  - Family reunions
  - Area/Division speech contests
  - Large organizational projects

### 5.2 Current DTM Candidates

- District currently has **five** DTM candidates, the highest in several years.
- Goal is to reach **10–12DTMs** this year.

### 5.3 Obtaining Access to DTM Project

- **Requirements:**
    - Complete **one full path**
    - Complete **Level 3 of a second path**
    - Email [educationprogram@toastmasters.org](mailto:educationprogram@toastmasters.org) to unlock the DTM project (not automatic).
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## 6. District Website & Technology Updates

### 6.1 Website Redesign

- As Administrative Manager, **Terri Orban** secured a **grant** for professional website development.
- A web company is redesigning the site to be **outward-focused** to attract new members and clubs.
- Volunteers interested in assisting should contact Terri.

### 6.2 Constant Contact Migration

- District will move communications and bookstore operations to **Constant Contact:**
  - Members may receive follow-up reminders until an email is opened.
  - Allows for **text messaging**, online **bookstore payments**, and better automation.
  - Goal: phase out unused TI gift certificates with online purchasing options.

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## 7. Recognition & District Talent

Patti recognized members for their personal and professional accomplishments:

- **Rochelle** – published work in an anthology.
- **Marianne** – recent presentation on AI; recognized for dual PhDs.
- **Andrew** – exceptional spreadsheet and analytical support.
- **Tim** – manages multiple responsibilities including business and farm; hosts engagement sessions.
- **General encouragement** to celebrate skills and achievements of fellow members.

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## 8. The Engagement Room

- Hosted by **Tim** twice monthly (1st & 3rd Wednesdays).
- Provides a platform for 20-minute speeches with feedback.
- Sessions can be applied toward:
  - DTM Projects
  - Pathways Level 4/5 electives
  - Professional development opportunities

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## 9. Professional Development & Organizational Clubs

- Kesha encouraged leaders to talk about Toastmasters as **professional development** to employers.
- Companies can utilize Toastmasters as a recognized PD benefit and sponsor new clubs.

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## 10. Global Advertising Initiative (LinkedIn Campaign)

### 10.1 Launch Details

- District 8 purchased the **Global Advertising Initiative** beginning January.
- National Toastmasters ads will appear via **LinkedIn**.

### 10.2 Training Needed

- District needs volunteers familiar with LinkedIn to conduct workshops (101, 102 level).

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## 11. Pathways, DCP, and Program Support

- Questions or issues with:
  - Pathways
  - DCP status
  - Club recordsshould be directed to [educationprogram@toastmasters.org](mailto:educationprogram@toastmasters.org).

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## 12. Mileage Reimbursement

- Members reminded to submit **mileage reimbursement** for TLI attendance.
- Patti offered to host a Zoom walk-through for anyone needing help.

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## 13. Announcements & Appreciations

### 13.1 PQD Recognition

- Special appreciation was given to **Jackie**, who served superbly as PQD and contributed significantly to TLI planning.

### 13.2 New Member Seminars

- Conducted twice monthly (Andrew).

### 13.3 Club Assistance Sessions

- Facilitated by **Annetta**.

### 13.4 Individual Speech Support

- Managed by **Tim** (via Engagement Room).

### 13.5 District Calendar

- All upcoming events and Zoom links are available on the district calendar.

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## 14. District Conference – May 16, 2026

The District is seeking:

- A conference venue (hotel or conference center)
- Rooms needed:
  - Main gathering room
  - Lunch/banquet room
  - 2–3 breakout rooms
- Speaker suggestions
- Volunteers to assist with program development

Location is open—Illinois, Southern Missouri, or any site providing the best overall package.

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## 15. Adjournment

With no further questions, Patti thanked everyone for attending, supporting new members, and helping advance the district’s **“People First”** vision.

Meeting adjourned with reminders to clean up tables and assist with packing items.