

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL District 53



District Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2023, 7:00-9:00pm, Online via Zoom

Items that required a vote are shaded **yellow**.

This document and all supporting information can be viewed at the following links.

Full meeting video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/c4khk06lbn2lqub/D53 DC 2023-04-27 Video.mp4>

Full meeting audio: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rbo3b2shsfkchi5/D53 DC 2023-04-27 Audio.m4a>

Meeting Info Kit: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-04-27-Info-Kit.pdf>

Finance Manager's Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rcmu6is5rj9oz4h/D53 DC 2023-04-27 DFM Report.pdf>

PR Manager's Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/53ibhzclapovrrw/D53 DC 2023-04-27 PRM Report.pdf>

CGD Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mhvwnukay6wz6en/D53 DC 2023-04-27 CGD Report.pdf>

PQD Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zq00slq6p6ouk2w/D53 DC 2023-04-27 PQD Report.pdf>

DD Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/y7tf0xlhce9sfrr/D53 DC 2023-04-27 DD Report.pdf>

Meeting Attendance Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/4sqwmlioye3x17w/D53 DC 2023-04-27 Attendees.pdf>

1. Special Orders

1.a. Call to Order

John H Hogan, District Director

Meeting video location: 0:00:15.

Mr. Hogan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

He reminded all participants to keep CHAT open for important meeting information. He also reminded all participants of the preparation materials that were distributed by Registration Manager, Norm Thibodeau on Thursday, April 20. All were reminded to have key documents opened during the meeting for reference. Specifically, voting representatives will need the Agenda, Meeting Info Package, and especially Voting Credentials and links handy during the meeting.

Mr. Hogan acknowledged the attending Steering Committee members and functionaries (Zoom masters, Timers, Parliamentarian, and Registration Manager), past District Directors from Akihiro Ishii back to Don Logie, chair of our Audit Committee Rich Dirksen, and our Region 9 Advisor Patricia O'Reilly, the International Director from Region 9, and also a past District 53 Governor, Jeff Sobel, and immediate past International President, and past District 53 Governor, Richard Peck.

1.b. Reading of Mission Statements & Promise

Bettyann Peck, Club Growth Director

Meeting video location: 0:04:55. Meeting Info Package page 5.

Ms. Peck read the Toastmasters International Mission, the Toastmasters District Mission, and the Toastmasters Promise.

1.c. Review of Online Meeting Protocol

Norm Thibodeau, District Administration Manager

Meeting video location: 0:07:25. Meeting Info Package page 6-7.

Mr. Thibodeau reviewed our online meeting protocol and explained the online voting process. We paused for questions or comments. There were no questions in the chatbox.

1.d. Approval of Special Rules of Order

Tom Farrelly, Parliamentarian

Meeting video location: 0:14:20. Meeting Info Package page 8.

The special rules of order were read by Mr. Farrelly and were approved/adopted without objection. We paused for questions or comments. There were no questions in the chatbox.

1.e. Agenda Review and Approval

John H Hogan, District Director

Meeting video location: 0:17:20. Meeting Info Package page 3.

The agenda was reviewed by Mr. Hogan and approved without objection.

1.f. Roll Call for Quorum

John H Hogan, District Director

Meeting video location: 0:19:20.

Mr. Hogan called for the Roll Call vote (done using our online ballot system). Voting delegates posted their attendance by entering their Voting Credentials into the online Roll Call ballot. Mr. Thibodeau provided instructions in the chatbox "Please find Norm Thibodeau's email of 4/20/2023 with your four-character credential code".

1.g. Credentials Report

Paul Randolph, Credentials Chair

Meeting video location: 0:32:20.

Credentials Chair Paul Randolph presented the Quorum Report. The Credentials Report was as follows.

District Council Meeting, 2023-04-27 Quorum Report

Business meeting quorum is defined as 1/3 of potential votes from all active clubs. Each club is allowed 2 votes.

Number of Active Clubs	89
Total possible club votes (clubs*2)	178
Quorum (Tot Votes/3, rounded up)	60
Actual Club Votes Present	97
Quorum has been met	
DEC Votes Present	27
Total Votes Present	124
Simple Majority	62
2/3 Majority	83
Total requests	92
Invalid Codes (ignored)	6
Duplicates (ignored)	8
Macro processing time	2.22 sec

The Credentials Report was adopted without objection. We paused for questions or comments. There were no questions in the chatbox. Because the Quorum was met, Mr. Hogan explained that all votes decided by this body today will be final and binding.

2. Business Decisions

2.a. Approval of October 2022 DC Meeting Minutes

John H Hogan, District Director

Meeting video location: 0:35:15. Meeting Info Package page 9-15.

The District 53 Council Business Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2022, assembled by Recording Secretary Amy Chiu, were distributed with the meeting package. Mr. Hogan asked if there were any objections, corrections, or questions on the minutes. There were none.

Motion made by Patti Walter to accept the May 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Elizabeth Keeling. Online ballot results:

District Council Meeting, 2023-04-27

For approval of the 2022-10-27 DC Meeting Minutes

	Votes	%
Total Possible Votes	124	100%
Yes	110	89%
No	0	0%
Abstain	14	11%

Motion has passed with majority vote

Invalid Codes (ignored)	11
Duplicates (ignored)	0
Macro Execution Time	0.74 sec

The meeting minutes for the October 2022 District Council Meeting have been approved.

2.b. Approval of 2022-2023 Mid-Year Audit Report

Richard Derksen, Audit Committee Chair

Meeting video location: 0:42:15. Meeting Info Package page 16.

Mr. Derksen summarized the key elements of the audit and confirmed that everything was in order according to the policy of Toastmasters International. Mr. Hogan asked if there were any objections, corrections, or questions regarding this report. There were none.

Motion made by Mary Howard to accept the audit report. Seconded by Paul Terman.

Online ballot results:

District Council Meeting, 2023-04-27

For approval of the 2022-2023 Mid-Year Audit Report

	Votes	%
Total Possible Votes	124	100%
Yes	108	87%
No	0	0%
Abstain	16	13%

Motion has passed with majority vote

Invalid Codes (ignored)	14
Duplicates (ignored)	0
Macro Execution Time	0.76 sec

The Mid-Year Audit Report has been approved.

2.c. Approval of 2023-2024 District Realignment

Norm Thibodeau, Realignment Committee Co-Chair

Meeting video location: 0:49:55. Meeting Info Package page 17-29.

Mr. Thibodeau briefly summarized the process and considerations for developing the realignment proposal this year and explained the changes.

Mr. Hogan opened the floor for comments, questions, or objections. There were no comments, questions, or objections.

Motion made by Bettyann Peck to approve the proposed 2023-2024 Realignment. Seconded by Patti Walter.

Online ballot results:

District Council Meeting, 2023-04-27

For approval of the 2023-2024 District Realignment

	Votes	%
Total Possible Votes	124	100%
Yes	112	90%
No	1	1%
Abstain	11	9%

Motion has passed with majority vote

Invalid Codes (ignored)	15
Duplicates (ignored)	0
Macro Execution Time	0.5 sec

The District 53 Realignment Plan for 2023-2024 has been approved.

2.d. Election of 2023-2024 District Officers

John H Hogan, District Director

Meeting video location: 0:57:00. Meeting Info Package page 30.

Mr. Hogan conducted officer elections for the 2023-2024 Toastmasters year, beginning July 1, 2023. First, Mr. Hogan requested District Leadership Committee Chair, Akihiro Ishii, to present the DLC report.

Mr. Ishii explained that this year's DLC report is incomplete because the required 2 candidates for the Club Growth Director, and candidates for the Division A Director and Division C Director were not identified by the deadline. In accordance with Toastmasters International Protocol 9, those three positions were therefore open for floor candidates, which had to be identified by April 20.

For Division B Director — Scott E. Davis and Ebru Unal
For Division D Director — Mark Wing
For Division E Director — Elizabeth Keeling
For District Club Growth Director — Mohan Padamati
For District Program Quality Director — Bettyann Peck
For District Director — Patricia Walter

Mr. Hogan explained that candidates for the open Division A and Division C Director positions were nominated by the April 20 deadline as candidates "from the floor" and will be included in this year's election. These two candidates are:

For Division A Director: Stephanie Roy.
For Division C Director: Selina Tourjee.

With the exception of the Division B Director position, all candidates are running unopposed. For all other positions, we would use the process of "unanimous consent" whereby the DD, Mr. Hogan, would request the District Administration Manager Thibodeau to submit one unanimous consent ballot for the uncontested candidates, and barring any objections from the floor, the candidate is elected.

District Director

At Mr. Hogan's request, DAM Thibodeau cast one unanimous consent vote for Patti Walter for the role of District Director 2023-2024. Mr. Hogan accepted the vote and announced that Ms. Walter was elected.

Program Quality Director

At Mr. Hogan’s request, DAM Thibodeau cast one unanimous consent vote for Bettyann Peck for the role of Program Quality Director 2023-2024. Mr. Hogan accepted the vote and announced that Ms. Peck was elected.

Club Growth Director

At Mr. Hogan’s request, DAM Thibodeau cast one unanimous consent vote for Mohan Padamati for the role of Club Growth Director 2023-2024. Mr. Hogan accepted the vote and announced that Mr. Padamati was elected.

Division Directors

Mr. Hogan identified the candidates for the four uncontested Division Director positions, as follows.

For Division A Director — Stephanie Roy

For Division C Director — Selina Tourjee

For Division D Director — Mark Wing

For Division E Director — Elizabeth Keeling

At Mr. Hogan’s request, DAM Thibodeau cast one unanimous consent vote for Division Directors A, C, D, & E positions. Mr. Hogan accepted the vote and announced that Stephanie Roy, Selina Tourjee, Mark Wing, and Elizabeth Keeling were elected to the office of Division Director for 2023-2024 for Divisions A, C, D, and E, respectively.

Mr. Hogan announced the candidates for the position of Division B Director, Scott R. Davis and Ebru Unal.

Prior to the vote, each candidate was given 2 minutes to address the Council.

Scott R. Davis presented his candidate’s speech. (Meeting video location: 1:07:45.)

Ebru Unal presented her candidate’s speech. (Meeting video location: 1:11:25.)

Mr. Hogan instructed delegates to vote for the Division B Director position.

Online ballot results:

District Council Meeting, 2023-04-27

For the position of Division B Director

	Votes	%
Total Possible Votes	124	100%
Scott Davis	31	25%
Ebru Unal	78	63%
Abstain	15	12%

Ebru Unal wins with majority vote

Invalid Codes (ignored)	13
Duplicates (ignored)	0
Macro Execution Time	0.51 sec

Mr. Hogan announced that Ebru Unal received the majority of votes and was elected. The appointed District 53 officers for 2023-2024 have been confirmed.

3. Business Reports

Meeting video location: 1:20:55.

Mr. Hogan reminded delegates that all reports were distributed prior to the meeting and delegates were instructed to read the reports before the meeting and come to the meeting with any questions or comments.

As such, these reports will only be briefly summarized and then the floor opened for questions and comments. Mr. Hogan reminded everyone of the special rules of order for discussion on each report: that discussion is limited to 1 minute per person and the total discussion for each report will be limited to 10 minutes unless an extension is voted for by a 2/3 majority.

3.a. Finance Manager's Report

Jessica Ficarra, Finance Manager

Meeting video location: 1:22:20. Meeting Info Package page 33.

Finance Manager's Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rcmu6is5rj9oz4h/D53 DC 2023-04-27 DFM Report.pdf>

Ms. Ficarra indicated that the final Financial Manager's report was sent prior to this meeting and there were no changes. Ms. Ficarra briefed the report contents. Overall, Actual Total Net Income was favorable to budget by \$7,525. Although revenue was lower than budget, expenses also were lower than budget, resulting in actual Net Income being favorable to budget. Mr. Hogan opened the floor for questions or comments. There were none.

3.b. Public Relations Manager's Report

Mohan Padamati, Public Relations Manager

Meeting video location: 1:24:25. Meeting Info Package page 33.

PR Manager's Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/53ibhzclapovrrw/D53 DC 2023-04-27 PRM Report.pdf>

Mr. Padamati provided a brief update about the Public Relations efforts, including monthly newsletters and social media. The newsletters include updates about training, conference, and officer forums, etc. On an average, 45% of the members opened the articles. Mr. Padamati announced that the district's website is now in the hands of an all-volunteer staff, with two Toastmasters collaborating as webmaster and programmer, along with two division-level staff writers. A podcast should launch before the end of the program year. Mr. Hogan opened the floor for questions or comments. There were none.

3.c. Club Growth Director Report

Bettyann Peck, Club Growth Director

Meeting video location: 1:29:45. Meeting Info Package page 33.

CGD Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mhvwnukay6wz6en/D53 DC 2023-04-27 CGD Report.pdf>

Ms. Peck provided a brief update about the Club Growth efforts, including statistics of the active clubs, new/chartered/prospect clubs, and renewal status. Mr. Hogan opened the floor for questions or comments. There were none.

3.d. Program Quality Director Report

Patricia Walter, Program Quality Director

Meeting video location: 1:34:35. Meeting Info Package page 33.

PQD Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zq00slq6p6ouk2w/D53 DC 2023-04-27 PQD Report.pdf>

Ms. Walter briefly shared updates about officer training, Pathways, Speech Contests, Spring Conference, and Officer Forums, etc. Mr. Hogan opened the floor for questions or comments. There were none.

At this point, DD John Hogan transferred the meeting chair role to PQD Patricia Walter. Ms. Walter accepted the virtual gavel and introduced Mr. Hogan for the District Director's report.

3.e. District Director Report

John Hogan, District Director Report

Meeting video location: 1:38:40. Meeting Info Package page 33.

DD Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/y7tf0xlhce9sffr/D53 DC 2023-04-27 DD Report.pdf>

Mr. Hogan briefly shared the achievements in club growth, education and program quality, hybrid meeting success, and succession planning. Ms. Walter opened the floor for questions or comments. There were none.

At this point, PQD Patricia Walter returned the meeting chair role to DD John Hogan. Mr. Hogan accepted the virtual gavel and continued with the meeting.

4. New Business

Meeting video location: 1:44:10.

Mr. Thibodeau, District Administration Manager, confirmed that there was no new business to discuss.

5. Adjournment

Meeting video location: 1:44:50.

The next District Council meeting will be in September, date, time, and location to be announced by the incoming District Director.

Adjournment

With a motion from Jessica Munn, seconded by Andrew Watt, the meeting was formally adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by,

Amy Chiu

Recording Secretary, 2022-2023

The District Council consists of the D53 Executive Committee and the president and VP of Education from each club in District 53.

The District 53 Executive Committee consists of all Area Directors, Division Directors, District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Public Relations Manager, Administration Manager, Financial Manager and Immediate Past District Director.

The final agenda will be distributed at the District Council Meeting. The agenda may be modified during the District Council Meeting by majority vote of delegates present and voting.