



District Council Meeting Minutes 2023-09-21

District 53

This document is a DRAFT and won't be considered FINAL until approved at the 2024-04-11 District Council meeting. For greater detail on meeting discussion, please see the full meeting video at the link provided below. For the most current copy of this document, go to: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>.

The District Council is the governing body of the District and includes the President and VPE of each active club plus all Area Directors, Division Directors, and the District Senior Staff.

Minutes prepared on October 9, 2023

References

Full meeting video: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1yhwm8qczwwcze2p0uu3e/D53-DC-2023-09-21-Video.mp4?rlkey=xl7s6dtmev6ake3abfbs7v6g9&dl=0>

Full meeting audio: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/zgqgbdjdfog54y3lb83h6n/D53-DC-2023-09-21-Audio.m4a?rlkey=clezet89wgoqa3eccpfs6ay14&dl=0>

Meeting Info Kit: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-Info-Kit.pdf>

District Success Plan: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DSP-2023-2024.pdf>

Finance Manager's Report: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-DFM-Report.pdf>

PR Manager's Report: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-PRM-Report.pdf>

CGD Report: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-CGD-Report.pdf>

PQD Report: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-PQD-Report.pdf>

DD Report: <https://d53tm.org/wp-content/uploads/D53-DC-2023-09-21-DD-Report.pdf>

Meeting Attendance Report: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9awq2134thb3m0gn68dt9/D53-DC-2023-09-21-Attendees.pdf?rlkey=w6i0e9lae15tpfgzw3m5bea7y&dl=0>

Opening

- DD (District Director) Patti Walter welcomed members at 7:00 pm, and introduced the meeting functionaries.
- CGD (Club Growth Director) Mohan Padamati read the Toastmasters Mission, the District Mission, and the *Toastmasters Promise*.
- Registration Manager Norm Thibodeau summarized the procedures for online meetings and online voting *via* SurveyMonkey.
- Parliamentarian Tom Farrelly reviewed the District's *Special Rules of Order*. They were passed without objection.
- DD Walter moved on to review the Agenda, which was approved with no objection.
- DD Walter initiated the meeting roll call and all delegates who did not register their credentials during the gathering period were requested to register so they could vote during the meeting.
- Credentials Chair Paul Randolph presented the Quorum Report:
 - We have 98 clubs eligible to vote with 2 votes each for a possible total of 196 club votes.
 - Quorum minimum is 66 club votes (1/3 of total possible, rounded up).
 - We achieved quorum for the business meeting with 123 club votes present.
 - There were also 22 DEC representatives in attendance, so the total votes present were 145.
 - A simple majority required 73 votes and a 2/3 majority required 97 votes.

Business Decisions

- The *District 53 Council Business Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023*, assembled by Recording Secretary Amy Chiu, were presented for approval by DD Walter. The Minutes were approved with 126 "yes" votes, 0 "no" votes, and 19 abstentions.
- The *Year-End Audit Report for 2022-23*, was summarized by Audit Committee Chair Rich Derksen. The report was approved with 132 "yes" votes, 0 "no" votes, and 11 abstentions.
- The *District 53 Budget for 2023-2024* was summarized by DD Walter. The Budget was approved with 102 "yes" votes, 10 "no" votes, and 33 abstentions.
- The Appointed District Officers for 2023-2024 were presented by DD Walter. The Appointments were confirmed with 130 "yes" votes, 4 "no" votes, and 11 abstentions.
- The proposed 2023-2024 District Success Plan was presented by DD Walter. The Success Plan was approved with 125 "yes" votes, 0 "no" votes, and 20 abstentions.

- The format for the 2023-2024 Area Speech Contests was decided by plurality vote to be in-person with 69 votes for in-person, 22 votes for online, 32 votes for hybrid, and 22 abstentions.*
- The format for the 2023-2024 Division Speech Contests was decided to be in-person with 85 votes for in-person, 9 votes for online, 26 votes for hybrid, and 25 abstentions.*
- Registration Manager Thibodeau identified an anomaly in the ballot count result for the Area and Division Contest Format - the ballot count weighting for those delegates with multiple votes was not occurring. This resulted in a motion by Richard Peck to accept the ballot counts as-is since proper adjustment for weighting would not alter the results enough to change the decision. This motion passed with 94 “yes” votes, 6 “no” votes, and 45 abstentions.
* Subsequently, a recount of the votes with proper weighting was completed and the correct, weighted results are those reported above for these two votes.

Reports

- The meeting concluded with District Leadership Reports. The reports were distributed for preview by all Council delegates to save time for questions and comments during the meeting. A link to each full report is included at the top of this results summary.
 - 2022-2023 Finance Manager Jessica Ficara summarized and led discussion on the DFM Report.
 - DD Patti Walter summarized and led discussion on the PRM Report on behalf of PRM, Zack Fisk, who was unable to attend.
 - Club Growth Director Mohan Padamati summarized and led discussion on the CGD Report.
 - Program Quality Director Bettyann Peck summarized and led discussion on the PQD Report.
 - District Director Patti Walter summarized and led discussion on the DD Report.
- Past International President Richard Peck addressed the delegates, thanking them for their attendance and engagement during this meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.
- The next District Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11 at 7:00pm (date and time to be confirmed).

Respectfully Submitted by

Norm Thibodeau, PMP, DTM

D53 District Administration Manager

D53 District Services Manager

Project Manager, Retired

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Additional Noteworthy Details

The budget discussion exceeded the 10 minute time limit. At 1:01 into the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to extend the discussion duration but the resulting vote failed to reach the required 2/3 majority with 82 in favor, 35 against, and 28 abstentions.

At 1:54:40 RegMgr Thibodeau identified an anomaly in the ballot count result for the Area and Division Contest Format. Quick analysis during the meeting determined that the ballot count weighting for those delegates with multiple votes was not occurring in this particular ballot results template. This type of error could not be resolved on the fly during the meeting because it would require analysis, code corrections, and testing. This generated much discussion on next steps and resulted in a motion by Richard Peck to accept the ballot counts as-is since proper adjustment for weighting would not alter the results enough to change the decision.

At 02:04:15 Richard Peck requested clarification on the invalid votes reported on each contest format ballot result.

At 2:00:20, Delegate Richard Peck made a motion to extend the duration of the meeting for an additional 30 minutes because of the considerable discussion on the budget and contest formats.

At 2:15:08 Joe Maselli asked who will get to vote if a revote is required. The answer is that all eligible delegates would get to vote whether or not they were in attendance during the meeting. This is consistent with how re-votes are done in US political elections.