

Results of the District 53 Council Business Meeting

September 21, 2023 — 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm EDT, Online via Zoom

These are "at a glance" informal results of the District Council business meeting. This report should not be considered binding or definitive, compared with the **Minutes of The District Council Business meeting** which will be issued as part of the meeting packet for the Spring 2024 meeting.

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.

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/zqgqbjdfog54y3lb83h6n/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>
- Dist 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=w6i0e9lae15tpfgz3m5bea7y&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 Ficarra 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).

Summarized by DAM Norm Thibodeau, DTM, PMP, October 9, 2023