



DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORT

Greetings fellow District 112 members

District 112

It's nearly eight months into this Toastmasters year and time has, shall we say, flown. As we countdown to the removal of the traditional education system we still have a lot of work to do to ease the transition for many members. I recently received some material that basically said that there are only three things that matter in Toastmasters Clubs; effective club leadership, quality club meetings, healthy membership.

If you seek the first two then the third will naturally arise. I could not disagree at all! The District puts a lot of effort and member provided funds into marketing however it is well performing clubs that will reap the rewards. Do you have a well performing club? When did you last run a Moments of Truth and perform self-analysis, seeking feedback from your members?

As a District we also seek leadership from members to serve as Area Directors and in other District roles and be part of the team that works with clubs to achieve quality clubs. If you would like to be involved in the District team or know someone who would please talk to your Area Director.

Napier Conference

Have you registered for the Napier Conference yet? The Napier team have a pretty good package being assembled to entertain and educate us! All members are invited, so don't delay. You can register for FOCUS 2020 here; <http://conference.d112tm.org.nz>

Rotary

As many of you will be aware Toastmasters International has entered into a relationship with Rotary International. This relationship will amongst other things involve Toastmasters International providing educational material to

Rotary and at the moment this is only happening in the USA. Toastmasters International, on their website, has suggested further ways that Toastmasters and Rotarians may assist each other. As a District we will expand and comment on this information and that fact that we have made initial contact with Rotary leadership in New Zealand, in a Newsletter.

Coronavirus

Some clubs are wondering what if any action should be taken with regards to the current Coronavirus outbreak, mostly prevalent in China however now in many countries.

We are aware of the following actions in some clubs:

- Many members who have recently visited China are self-quarantining and not attending clubs until they have had two-three weeks away without any symptoms. Their work environments have typically requested similar self-quarantining.
- Some clubs have decided to invoke a policy of handshake change replacing it with, for instance, a close meeting of clenched fists (not as bad as it sounds!).
- Clubs are making alcohol-based hand sanitiser available at each meeting.

It is important to keep abreast of developments in this area and for club executives to consider what decisions are required that are in the best interests of their members. The District will make every effort to provide guidance.

District website & Clubfinder

It has been proposed by Mike Diggins, the webmaster responsible for the New Zealand Clubfinder site, that the site be discontinued. The site has served District 72 and 112 well in the past and generally had a high number of hits from visitors. Since the District split however, more effort has been put into the District 112 website and the proposal is to place some aspects of the club search function into the website and increasingly point potential members at the Toastmasters International Clubfinder.

The New Zealand Clubfinder supports club email forwarding and further information about the use of this function and replacement of the functionality will be communicated to clubs. What is important is that club related emails from Toastmasters International are received by Base Camp Managers. The timeframe for discontinuation will be 4-6 months.

The Clubfinder may be found here;

<https://www.toastmasters-clubfinder.org.nz>

Contests

At the time that Toastmasters International announced the cessation of November Conferences there was some local discussion as to whether the number of contests should be reduced. Note that we are required to conduct the International Speech contest at all levels. The District intends sending out a survey to find what the current thinking of clubs is in this respect.

Education

The most recent Pathways adoption rate information available shows that this is one area where we have to raise the bar. Our goal is to beat all the other Districts in the Region in this area! We did not get as large an uptake with the Pathways Zoom sessions that were offered on a daily basis, as we expected, so we are looking at how we can assist the clubs to provide focused information to assist new members. New members should have registered in Pathways within a month of their joining, so please look after your new members in this area. Despite the online nature of Pathways there may still be opportunities to provide some printed material to new members to assist them on their Pathways journey.

Sometime soon we will see Toastmasters International promote digital marketing in the District. Currently in Australia this is being rolled out. One requirement will be that the club information on the Toastmasters International Clubfinder is up-to-date and accurate. Clubs should expect to see a push to achieve this. Did you know that there are around 30 District 112 clubs that don't list a website and many more have incorrect meeting information on their Clubfinder page? Every effort should be made to maximise the opportunities clubs have available to promote themselves.

New clubs

One of the goals that we need to address this year is having members that are able and willing to assist with new club building. Stephen Budai the District Club Growth Director says we have several pipelined clubs/programs to be addressed and we are dependent on the availability of members as sponsors and mentors. Assisting with club building can be an excellent way of improving your speaking and leadership skills.

Resignations

Recently we have received two resignations from District Officers. Both Connie Hassan, Area Director K1, and our District Finance Manager, Satesh Narayan, have resigned for personal reasons and we would like to thank them sincerely for their work to-date. Murray Coutts, currently the District Administration Manager will also take on the role of Finance Manager. Thank you, Murray.

In closing

Were you aware that over the next four months you may still register awards for the traditional education system? Will you be in Napier next year getting a DTM presented in the traditional education system, or perhaps even Pathways? I'm looking forward to seeing Pathways DTMs very soon! Whatever award you achieve today, tomorrow, next year, it will be because you set a goal, and achieved a milestone.

Enjoy your journey!

Best regards
Neil

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