



District 112 Director's Report

District	112	District Director	Sharon Kerr-Phillips	Report date	October 2020
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District Vision for the year

As advised in the previous report, our vision is to be there for our members in a very practical way, to have transparency and accountability and to provide growth and stretch opportunities.

District Success Plans and Goals

Please refer again to previous addendum.

In Person, Online and Hybrid Meetings

COVID-19 has brought both challenges and opportunities. We have had the opportunity to learn new skills and to see how members needing to stay at home, or away on business, or with geographical challenges enjoy the opportunity to join meetings online. At the same time, we have had members appreciate the benefit of meeting in person, enjoying that social interaction. We are fortunate to now be at Level 1 and let us hope we are able to stay there, but we do need to be mindful that alert levels can change at any time. We encourage clubs to hold hybrid meetings to address the needs of all members. Please be respectful of members who are unable or not ready to attend meetings in person.

For members wanting to find out more about holding online meetings, please here is the link to Lauren's educational video on Zoom:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2znbrwG7qOBwc8rzPqHFa8D8TUslqYOO>

Membership Renewals

Our Club Growth Director will provide more details, the latest renewal round has seen a few clubs not renewing, some clubs with low membership and some members taking a six-month break. We are working with clubs one at a time to determine whether, with additional help, clubs may be able to regain strength. Toastmasters has so much to offer members and we have an exceptional team this year. We are here to help all members and clubs, please do not hesitate to contact anyone of the Trio should you wish to discuss a difficulty or suggestion you may have

We have a few companies who have recognised the benefit of Toastmasters and are investigating starting corporate clubs or encouraging their staff to join community clubs. We will be working closely with these companies in the new year.

Club Anniversaries

It was an absolute pleasure to have attended Tauranga Toastmasters 50 anniversary. The speeches delivered highlighted the many benefits Toastmasters offers to such a vast range of people. We congratulate Three Kings Club on their 35th Anniversary and look forward to celebrating Maungakiekie Club's 30th anniversary on the 27th of October and Morning Toast's 25th anniversary on the 6th of December.

Area, Division and District Contests

The most recent update from Toastmasters International regarding contests was received on the 24th of August 2020, signed by the International President and CEO and states:

"effective immediately, all Speech Contests at the Area-, Division-, and District-levels *must* be conducted online. This applies to all Districts regardless of their local authorities' restrictions or lack thereof, related to COVID-19. This decision was not made lightly. This decision will ensure a consistent experience for the speech contestants and officials throughout the various levels in all Districts. With contests starting as early as the end of 2020, there is too much uncertainty about the current situation and the Board felt strongly that the burden of this decision should rest with them and not be put upon our District leaders."

Some members will be delighted for the opportunity to compete online and others will be disappointed not to compete in person. This decision is the result of being a part of an international organisation that must juggle the needs of 144 countries. Let us view this as an opportunity to further enhance our skills before we return to holding Area, Division and District contests in person again.

Our Program Quality Director, Stephen Budai, is holding online training sessions for contest functionaries. Please do attend these sessions, as we have many tips to ensure our Division contests are run smoothly. It is easy to pick up which contest officials have taken the time to attend training, thereby enhancing their online performance which creates a better experience for both the contestants and the audience.

One of the most enjoyable responsibilities of the trio is to attend Division Conferences. This gives us an opportunity to learn more about our members and for you to ask us any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to ask your trio representative to cover a specific topic in our address to your Division.

Succession Planning

Can you think of someone who would make an outstanding leader, someone you think could take up the opportunity to grow and stretch themselves a bit further? Please keep an eye out for members you would like to see as our future District leaders.

It gives me great pleasure to advise that Stephen Lindsay, DTM, is our District Leadership Committee Chair. The District Leadership Committee (DLC) evaluates all candidates for District elected positions and nominates the best candidate(s). Stephen will be forming a committee made up of a representative from each Division to select our best future leaders for nomination.

District Website

We are pleased to advise that Naveen Kolambage and James Hippolite have joined our website team. We are in great need of photographs and personal testimonials to add to the website – please email us your photos and videos. We are hoping to have the Club Officer Round 2 training material easily accessible on the website soon.

Conference 30th April – 2nd May

The conference team is working on an amazing conference website to entice you to the inspiring events being held online. The link to the Conference website will be placed on the District website soon.

All the best for the next quarter.

Warm regards

Sharon

Sharon Kerr-Phillips, DTM
District Director 2020 - 2021
Pathways Guide
District 112 New Zealand
Toastmasters International

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