

DISTRICT 112 NORTHERN NEW ZEALAND DIVISION REPORT

Division: O	Division Director Name: Ben Ross	Report date: 10 April 2022
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With the completion of Division O Conference recently, attention has focused to both the final set of Area Reports by my Area Directors and getting ready for transition to my eventual Division O Director successor (after the District Executive Council at District Conference in May 2022).

Division O is in a healthy position as it heads into the new Toastmasters year although ongoing support via coaching and mentoring will be needed with some Clubs in O3 and O5. There is potential for 3 community clubs and one advance club to open in Division O over the next 18 months and proper support structures will need to be in place to allow the clubs to thrive through their critical first two years.

Unfortunately, Division O will lose two clubs either to Covid or differing expectations, with a third club risking suspension unless their renewals are paid by end of May. The two clubs lost were Countdown to Speechmasters (O2) and Magnetism (O2) - both were corporate clubs. Manukau Toastmasters (O5) is at risk of suspension unless they pay their renewals soon. It is noted a Club Coach was appointed and as of this report the Club Coach has visited Manukau Toastmasters and will let the O5 Area Director and Division O Director know what resources the Club needs. It was concluded at Division Council that focus should shift away from establishing corporate clubs and reinvest back into Community Clubs which are more stable over the long term. This is something the new elected Trio should consider for the 22/23 year.

New Clubs

As for new Clubs the following areas could receive new clubs:

1. Pokeno (Community)
2. Takanini (Community)
3. Paerata (Community)
4. South Auckland Advance (Advanced)

Possible new clubs servicing the Mangere/Otahuhu Local Board area including the Airport complex are worth scoping out.

Realignment

My realignment proposal is with the Realignment Committee and, in short, reflects changes needing to be made to Division O in anticipation of continued Growth in the O4 and O5 Areas resulting in those Areas needing to be split in order to not overburden future Area Directors.



DCP

DCP-wise, Division O is on target for 13 clubs to reach either Distinguished, Select Distinguished or President's Distinguished with several clubs already at President's Distinguished Level. 13 is what was required for the Division to become Distinguished subject to Paid Clubs being at 25 or 26. Two clubs so far have 10/10 DCP goals (Morning Toast and MCBC Toastmasters (MCBC being the first in District to get 10/10)).

COT Round 2

At the conclusion of COT Round 2 only four clubs had all seven officers attend in which Ellerslie Sunrise won the \$50 Prezzy Card for having all seven attend.

Division O Conference

Division O Conference held in March was a major success. The Conference was run as my DTM project with myself overseeing the overall logistics including appointing Contest Chairs and Chief Judges, while my Area Directors served either as those Chief Judges or functionaries. A big thanks to Marlene, Shyamal, Sharon, and Angela for being my Contest Chairs, to Wendy as our Trio representative, and to especially my two Area Directors Nathan and Meegan who were burning the midnight oil making sure the puzzle pieces did not fall off the table. In the end the conference was a well-run machine with memorable speeches and fantastic results. You will be seeing the Division Winners compete at the District Conference at all four events! A lot of lessons learnt from Division O Conference including Agendas and sending ALL the judges out after the last contestant have been applied at other Divisions to excellent success as well.

Final Remarks

As this is most likely my last report as Division O Director before I begin formal transition to my successor it has been a privilege to serve as O's Division Director. While my original vision of being a President's Distinguished Division might not be able to be reached owing to the loss of two clubs it has certainly not dulled my time alongside my five Area Directors who I have worked with through the Toastmaster year. I wish my Area Directors well in their future endeavors, whatever they may be.

I also have this one piece of advice to my successor and to all future Division Directors: Delegate and DELEGATE OFTEN!