District 112 Director's – Wendy Wickliffe - Report – August 2022

This report is written for:
- All members and is published on the district website (D112 admin procedure 9.5, 21 days - DEC)
- Discussed at the District Executive Meeting (all district officers) on 17th September 2022 (Hybrid – Auckland, Alexandra Park) and
- District Council Meeting (All district officers, President, and Vice President of Education) on Friday 23rd September 2022 (online).

Greetings D112 Toastmaster members,

I started writing this report in airports in Nashville, San Francisco, Los Angeles and finally in Hamilton, New Zealand. I am feeling a little jet lagged but very motivated by the experience of attending training and the 2022 convention in person.

Topics I will cover in this report: -
- Update on the trio training and the 2022 Convention in Nashville (more details September Newsletter)
- Toastmasters International Annual Business Meeting outcomes on votes
- District Strategic Plan for 2022-2023

2022 District Leadership Training (DLT) – 15th and 16th August 2022, Nashville, Tennessee.

Most districts attended the training in person, and two districts from region 12 did not attend. Online training for those unable to participate to be held end of September.

There were approximately 300 district leaders, 19 board of directors, international officers, world headquarters staff and region advisors (350?). It was an outstanding learning opportunity, made better by being in person.

Below are my takeaways from the training: -

- Conflict is reduced when you know each other's working style preferences. (Work Style Assessments will be introduced in the next district officer training in September).
- Network table topics cards. Meet a new person, answer the question on the card, swap cards, find a new person you do not know, and so on. (use at future district events)
- Brainwriting Problem Solving. Each group member writes a problem on the allocated sheet that they want solutions to. The sheet is passed to another officer to write down five potential answers. (use at future district training)
- Dan Rex (CEO), the key message is not to get distracted. "What is the Main Thing? The District Mission is the Main Thing." District leaders should only be doing the main thing. The priority is to support clubs, and the second is to build sustainable new clubs.
- In the "Leading a team of leaders" training session, we were asked to create a statement that expresses how we will coach and empower our teams and members. We were encouraged to place it somewhere prominent to remind ourselves regularly. My statement below will be my focus for my district director term.

  "Leading is not Telling. Ask open questions to help others learn." Wendy Wickliffe, DD 2022-23.

2022 Toastmasters International Convention 17th to 20th August 2022, Nashville, Tennessee.

The first in-person convention for the trio was an amazing experience to see so many people from so many countries. The number of attendees was much lower than in past years, with 700 in-person attendees and approximately 1000 online. I was the flag bearer for New Zealand, and Richard was asked to carry the Vietnam flag. We both were very proud to be on stage and part of the opening ceremony. We spent a lot of time with our fellow Region 12 district leaders, and it was great to form strong relationships which will be valuable in working together in the future.

Board of Directors Briefing (Highlights) – 17 August 2022

Below are some of the comments from the notes that I took at the briefing.

- Performance of the organisation was not positive; average member numbers in clubs had dropped from 20 members to 16 in most districts.
- Dan Rex (CEO) for WHQ confirmed that they were disappointed by the ERP implementation and its impact on members. He could not provide a definitive date for the future changes but stated that the online store would be available in a couple of weeks. His CEO Report is available here.
- Morag Mathieson (International President-Elect) advised that pathways platform changes were proposed. One-step approval and allocation of education award and mobile accessibility content scope first quarter of 2023. Review of all pathways content and paths in the fourth quarter of 2023. Partnership with Yoodli to provide evaluation feedback using the AI program. The concept is to upload a recorded speech to get feedback on your pace, volume, fillers etc. It will be free for members and is an optional extra. It is to be released end of 2022 example, https://toastmasters.yoodli.ai/.

The exceptional news was that the recognition program had changed for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 program years. For districts, the table below shows the new program. For example, distinguished district changes to paid clubs instead of a 1.5% increase, it is changed to "No net club loss".
Membership payment decreased from 1.5% to 1% for distinguished, and the distinguished club number of 40% of clubs remained unchanged.

	Distinguished	Select Distinguished	President's Distinguished	Smedley Distinguished
Paid Clubs	No net club loss	Net +1 club	+3%	+5%
Membership	+1%	+3%	+5%	+8%
Distinguished Clubs	40%	45%	50%	55%

Effective immediately, the **membership requirement** is now either 20 members or a net growth of at least **three (3)** new, dual, or reinstating members instead of the previous requirement of five. An email was sent to all district leaders and club officers.

Hall of Fame on the 18th of August

In the Hall of Fame on the 18th of August, we supported Chrissy Meyer, who received a Presidential Citation from District 72 for her support to Toastmasters. In region 12, District 87 was recognised as a Distinguished District and District 90 was recognised for President's Membership Retention Awards.
Matt Kinsley, International President 2022-2023, challenged all districts for the conference in 2023 to be held in Nassau, Bahamas; he wanted the longest Hall of Fame with an increase in the number of Districts achieving distinguished or higher. The trio agreed we are up for that challenge and would like to see District 112 achieve Select Distinguished District 30 June 2023.

2022 Toastmasters International Annual Business Meeting – 19th August 2022

As expected, this event was well attended. Electronic voting made it easier for those in person and online. For the annual business meeting, I held a total of 191 votes for clubs and voted as instructed by the clubs on candidates and proposals. The trio had interviewed all candidates except the one-floor candidate, and we attended the international candidates showcase interviews. We did change our minds for three candidates because of how candidates answered the questions at the showcase.

Results from the appointed board of directors are on the TI website
https://www.toastmasters.org/about/board-of-directors/current-board-of-directors.
Proposals voting all were voted in. https://www.toastmasters.org/about/board-of-directors/2022-proposals

District Success Plan 2022-2023

Each year the district is required to upload on the Toastmasters International website the plan for the year on Club Growth, Membership Payments, and the Number of Distinguished Clubs. Includes timelines, action, and team members.

Vision

The district mission and purpose underpin the goals and actions for District 112 in the toastmaster year of 2022 to 2023. The strategies implemented will support **reconnecting, retaining, and rebuilding** clubs in communities and businesses to enable more New Zealanders to **experience the benefits of becoming a toastmaster**.

Strategies Overview

The full report will be published on the district documents page of the D112 website, and a summary version in a tabular format will also be available.

1. Increase Pathways Adoption and Education Awards submitted
   How
   - New Members Pathway monthly online workshop (support vice president of education)
   - Recognise member's education awards monthly (newsletter and website)
   - Monthly Pin draws for Level 1 completed by a new member within eight months, Level 5 completion, and Triple Crown Pin for members who meet three levels in one toastmaster year.

2. Support clubs to be successful, fun learning environments
   How
   - Workshops, webinars, Individualised support on topics requested by clubs
   - Bi-monthly club president newsletter – talking points for club business sections
   - Micro-learning opportunities – division competitions – monthly draw

3. Promoting the value of Toastmasters
   How
   - Advertising on Google, YouTube and Linked In
   - Club Facebook boosting support – incentives for club officer training, monthly club anniversaries and membership building
   - Marketing support for clubs – at the district and division level.

Regards
2022-2023 District Director
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