



## **District 112 Director Report | James Hippolite | September 2023**

This report is written for:

- All members and is published on the District website (pursuant to D112 admin procedure 9.5, provided 21 days prior to District Executive Committee meeting);
- Discussed at the District Executive Meeting (all District officers) on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Hybrid – Auckland, Waipuna Hotel); and
- District Council Meeting (All District officers, Presidents, and Vice President of Education) on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 (online).

### **Greetings D112 Toastmaster members,**

I am writing this report in Rotorua, having returned home from Nassau, the Bahamas, and immediately preparing to present our second in-person Club Officer Training. I am feeling very motivated by the experience of attending training and the 2023 International Convention in person.

Topics I will cover in this report:

- Update on the Trio training and the 2023 Convention in the Bahamas (more details September Newsletter);
- Toastmasters International Annual Business Meeting outcomes on votes; and
- District Strategic Plan for 2023-2024.

### **2023 District Leadership Training (DLT) – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Nassau, Bahamas.**

Most Districts attended the training in person, including all 8 Districts from Region 12 (South Pacific). There were approximately 300 district leaders, 19 board of directors, international officers, world headquarters staff and region advisors (slightly more than the numbers from last year). As usual, it was an outstanding learning opportunity, made better by being in person.

Below are my takeaways from the training:

- We don't work for Pathways; Pathways works for us.
- Establish a club incubation centre.
- Keep the main thing, the main thing.
- I'm a kinaesthetic learner.
- Quality Meetings = Quality Clubs.
- Stay committed; Continue to adapt.
- In one of the District Director breakouts, during the "Master Mentor Actions" training session, we chose accountability partners, who will check in regularly (fortnightly) to ensure we follow through on our commitments to one measurable action to support the success of our Club Growth Directors.

### **2023 Toastmasters International Convention 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Nassau, Bahamas.**

This was my second in-person Convention. This time, it was wonderful to catch up with acquaintances made last year. The number of attendees was slightly higher than last year, with 800 in-person attendees. As Wendy was the flag bearer for New Zealand last year, it was District 72's turn this year. Richard will get his chance next year. I was pleased that District 72 could attend this year. We spent a lot of time with our fellow Region 12 District



leaders, and it was great to continue to form strong relationships which will be valuable in working together in the future.

### **Board of Directors Briefing (Highlights) – 16 August 2023**

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

- Region 12 is losing District 87, Malaysia. That leaves 5 Australian and 2 New Zealand Districts.
- 2024 International Convention will be at Southern California, Anaheim Marriot.
- Morag Mathieson (newly inaugurated International President) was not able to be physically present with us, due to her cancer treatments.
- The Prime Minister of the Bahamas is Distinguished Toastmaster Philip Davis.

### **Massive Improvements for Pathways**

Live from the Convention, many changes coming to Pathways in first quarter. The new learning management system goes live in the early portion of 2024, with improved navigation, updated look and feel for projects and some content, and better readability for those with visual impairments. Then there are the **\*\*NEW\*\*** things:

- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Automated lodgement to club central of level completion approvals
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Mobile phone access (Mobile app to come later)
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Ability to share achievements to Social Media (level completions and badges)
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Explorations – new curated sets of projects (not sure if new projects or out of existing), separate to Pathways levels. First two will be: “Inclusive Leadership” and “Presenting Yourself Online”.

Based on what I can see in the video and associated material, the improvements to navigation are profound! Here are some more new things:

- **\*\*NEW\*\*** You can now share digital evaluations for projects from you to those you are evaluating by email.
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Removal of “home club” change for members of multiple clubs – simplifying progressing and lodgement.
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** All club officers will have base camp manager access.

Remember they are only going live with six paths (Dynamic Leadership, Engaging Humour, Motivational Strategies, Presentation Mastery, Persuasive Influence, and Visionary Communication).

For those on the other five paths you can still access and complete them, but it will be under the old learning management system look-and-feel. These five paths won't be available to select as new Paths once we go live with the new learning management system.

### **Hall of Fame – 17 August 2023**

- D112 did not achieve any awards this year.
- In Region 12, District 87 was once again recognised as a Distinguished District (Smedley Distinguished this time).
- Michael Said was recognized as last year's Region 12 Advisor.
- Phillip Bendeich received a Presidential Citation.
- District 69 received a Program Quality award.

### **2023 Toastmasters International Annual Business Meeting – 18 August 2023**

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 163 votes for clubs and voted as instructed by the clubs on candidates and proposals. The Trio had interviewed all



candidates except the two-floor candidates. Results from the appointed board of directors are on the TI website <https://www.toastmasters.org/about/board-of-directors/current-board-of-directors>.

### **District Success Plan 2023-2024**

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 2023 to 2024. The strategies implemented will support my vision of **Educating, Enjoying and Excelling** so that members in communities and businesses are able to help more New Zealanders 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
  - Continue 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
  - 3 Town Halls during the year – making the Top Table accessible to the Members
  - 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.

Blessings,  
2023-2024 District Director  
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