District Director Report on the Board Meeting in Anaheim, August 2024

With more than 1700 attending in person, the board shared the developments of their discussions, and I cover the topics as shared with us.

IP Morag Mathieson shared that 33 Districts received Distinguished Status or above.

The Board has accepted that the pandemic is behind us and have made decisions to focus resources for the longevity of the organisation. The Focus is on the District Mission, that the main thing is the main thing.

Recovery topics were part of Board discussions, all focusing on Club and District stability and growth. The board also acts as ambassadors when visiting remote regions, each visiting at least two districts per year.

Morag mention her visit to us in District 112. Three cheers for Morag, we felt proud to be Kiwi's.

CEO Daniel Rex: Daniel promoted the Voices from History, the Toastmasters centennial celebration book

Some statistics: Membership growth was a positive 1.4% from last year, and it has been years since we grew that much. Daniel predicted that this percentage will probably double next year. Daniel also reported a 2.2% up in total membership and paid clubs: Average club size world-wide, increased to almost 20 members per club. Distinguished Districts: not quite as high as in the past, but 33 Districts distinguished or above, is a great jump (almost double from last year). We may not be in a fabulous position, but we are making progress.

Taxes: This is becoming an issue, as there is a push from governments around the world regarding the taxing of Toastmasters. If it were to impact a District, TI will let us know well in advance.

Customer Hours: These will be extended by October – for a better provision of timely services.

Pathways: The new LMS system will launch mid-October. Read more about this at: www.Toastmasters.org/education/pathways/pathways-updates

Find a Club - Of all the people who have contacted clubs from the "Find a Club" system, only 6% were converted to members. When contacted, more than 50% of these prospective members responded with "I never heard back from the club". NOT GOOD. The new system will enable the potential member to use "Find a Club", then make a reservation to visit the club and their information will go to the club officers. That information will also go to the new **club officer's** p**erspective member lead management Dashboard**. With this change, no one who contacts a club via "Find a Club" will go "missing" again. Daniel also said that this system does not remove the responsibility of voting in the member to your club.

DEI Training: The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Training has been rolled out to the Board and its Committees and will be rolled out to Trio's this financial year. Guidelines will also be provided to other District leadership Committees.

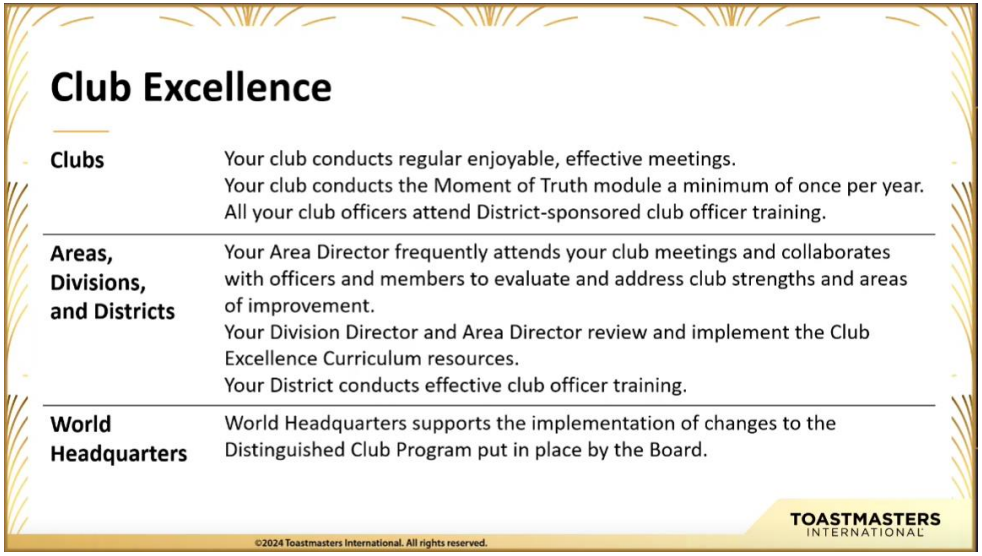
Plus one Pledge: Be the spark and pledge to bring one member to your club in the next six months. We are requested to honour Ralph Smedley's vision by sharing the Toastmaster Journey.

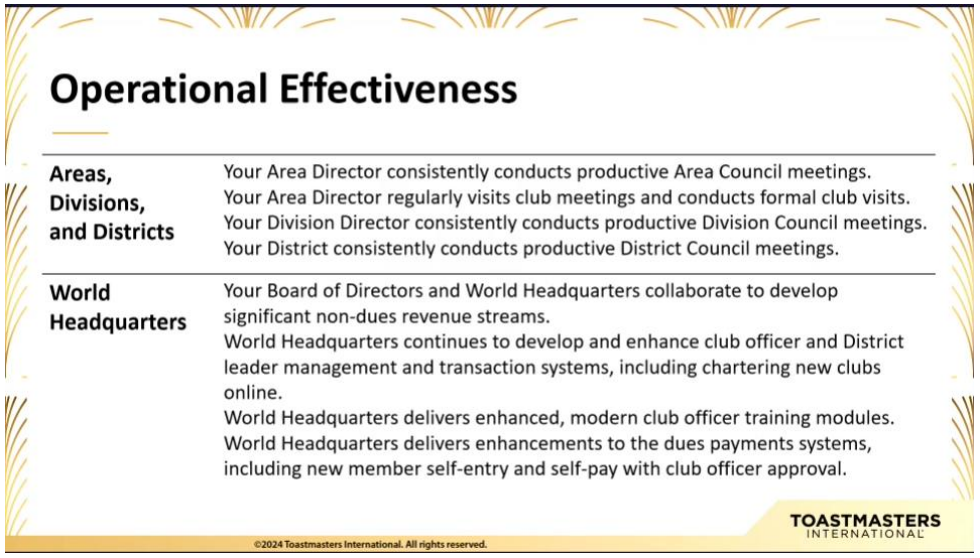
Financial Streams: There is a commitment to finding other sources of revenue.

The full CEO report is at: Toastmasters.org/CeoReports

Toastmasters Strategic Planning – by Matt Kinsey DTM IPIP

This rests on four pillars, and explained in full The four pillars of the Strategic Plan: www.Toastmasters.org/future





Reporting back on the 100 yrs of Toastmasters, at the Convention in Anaheim in August 2024

We can all look forward to the new Base Camp, and the Board reported that this will occur around Mid-October after the renewals have taken place. The changes include an inclusion of compatibility with mobile phones, tablets, iPad's and providing access to our visually impaired members.

Level completion will be an automatic one-step process, not requiring a second party as in the past. This means that level completion will also automatically submit the awards in Club Central.

Decisions all effective from the first of July 2025

What brought many a gasp and a worry to the delegates, was the announcements of the minimum membership size of a club. The board also stated the minimum size of areas and divisions. Although we had a heads-up of what was coming, the board confirmed the following (Protocol 7.1.D and E).

Minimum membership per club – remains at eight (to be reviewed yearly)
Minimum number of clubs per area – four in good standing (four to six clubs per Area)
Minimum number of Areas per Division - four in good standing (four to six areas per Division)
Division numbers – no change for our Region (Other Regions - a minimum of 100 clubs per District).

Currently the District minimum of 100 clubs does not affect our District. The Americas have 81 Districts, with 48 below 100, and this is a huge challenge that they have to face. I foresee the change of District Club Numbers also coming to our region sometime in the near future. Both D72 and D112 will have to concentrate their efforts and actively work towards the building of new clubs over the next two years, if we are to remain two districts.

Districts in Region 1-7 will have a two-year restructure program to reduce the number of Districts by 25, and to ensure almost all remaining Districts are sustainably above 100 clubs per district, effective from 1st July 2025. This is a massive change for toastmasters in the Americas. This new Minimum District sizes does not affect us yet, however we have to think what the long term effect of this decision will be, and to plan for this situation if it were to come to us within the next year or two – Date is unknown. A note on this is that we have 126 clubs, and D72 are on 89 clubs, so we in New Zealand should be in a good position provided we do not lose clubs.

The board also decided to introduce the diversity / equity inclusion training for all Trio's this year. This training has already been introduced to the Board and its Committees.

Initiatives of interest to members/ Club officer or District officers.

New Club Excellence consolidation of materials, launched. "Club Excellence Curriculum")

New Prospective Members Management System under development

New Evolution of the Distinguished Club Program.

New Diversity/ Equity/ Inclusion Training

New Senior District Staff Officer roles – in PQD space – Club Excellence Chair, and in CGD space – Club Mentor Chair.

New District Leaders Qualifications – (voting for District Leaders, partial or fully remote to the District)

We will be given more details to fully clarify these initiatives. Further details at the end of this document

Changes to the recognition structure

New Distinguished Club Program - Effective July 2025

	Members	DCP / training	Club Success Plan
Distinguished	+3 or 20 Members	5 goals, 4 in both training	Submit by Sept 30
Select Distinguished	+5 or 20 Members	7 goals, 4 in both training	Submit by Sept 30
President Distinguished	20 Members	9 goals, 4 in both training	Submit by Sept 30
Smedley Distinguished	25 or more Members	10 goals, 7 in both training	Submit by Sept 30

New Club, to be within 90 Days.

Distinguished Division Program - Effective July 2025

Level of Distinguished	Net Club Growth	Portion of Distinguished Clubs
Distinguished	No net loss	45%
Select Distinguished	+1	50%
Presidents' Distinguished	+2	55%

Distinguished District Program - Effective July 2025

Level of Distinguished	Net Club Growth	Net Membership Payments Growth	Portion of Distinguished Clubs
Distinguished	1%	1%	45%
Select Distinguished	3%	3%	50%
Presidents' Distinguished	5%	5%	55%
Smedley Distinguished	8%	8%	60%

Some clarification to the report from the committee's were as follows:

Club Quality Committee determined that quality lies with the Club and his members. We were urged to realise high standards in our clubs. The committee will reorganise all the tools, making them easier to find depending on the needs of the club. They will shorten the path to find the tools and encourage the Club Quality Chair now called the new Club Mentor Chair. Club excellence Chair is the new role under the CGD

District Leaders Qualification Committee

Concerning the Trio positions, the committee realise that their knowledge may not be sufficient for this post, and as from July 1 2025, remote leadership functions, and Article 7D will be amended. Cultural practices is now part of the considerations of remote leadership positions. Article 7B and 7C are also amended, regarding partial remote leadership positions and their budgets.

This ends the report which included more information than normal. Further details will be provided from TI.