District 112 Director Report Richard Perkins - September 2024

This report is written for:

- All members and is published on the District website, provided at least 12 days prior to the Semi-Annual District Council Meeting as per D112 Administrative procedure 9.5
- To be discussed at the District Executive Meeting (all District officers) on 21 September 2024 in Auckland at the Waipuna Hotel (Hybrid).
- To be approved at the District Council Meeting on Friday 27th September (online).

A warm greeting to all Toastmaster members

Topics I will cover in this report:

- Update on the Trio training and the 2023 Convention in Anaheim, California
- Discussions and points of value to District 112
- Toastmasters International Annual Business Meeting, result of elections
- Reporting on District 112 activities
- District Success Plan for 2024-2025

Update on the Trio training and the 2023 Convention in Anaheim, California

Most of the 128 Districts were represented in both the training and the convention parts in Anaheim, and all 8 Districts from our Region 12 (South Pacific) were there. About 1750 Toastmasters were part of this convention, including many of the WHQ staff and international officers. An outstanding learning opportunity while being there in person. Thank you D112 for sending us.

The Board Meeting was most interesting, and there was important and inspirational information for us to remember and share with our District. A detailed section of the Board Meeting is provided separately to this report. I wish to add the one part that is still fresh to me, and most important to us all.

The statistics regarding the “Find a Club” was shared, and it was found that of all the public who asked to visit a club, only 6% joined a club – “poor show” according to CEO Daniel Rex. After surveying those who used the “Find a Club”, more than 50% replied: “No club ever responded to my request”. Simply not good.

My inspiration came from CEO, Daniel Rex who said the system is changing to include an email response system. This allows Club officers to know about the request, and interaction with the guest is developed, leading to greater requirement for a club to respond. This includes communication with the AD, DivD, and the Trio. I believe this new system will ensure guests will at least be contacted and will be invited to the clubs, and that membership here and worldwide will grow because of this system. Thank you Daniel.

Training was exceptional

We were asked to look at our trends in our membership numbers, our club numbers and our distinguished club numbers. The trends over the past years were all decreasing, and this year we see a turnaround, and expect to grow in all of these areas.

Training also included an exceptional activity about working together – teaching us that all styles of leadership combined makes a great leadership team – not just the Direct Leadership Style. Not arrogance, but collaboration. Much more can be said, but I challenge you to speak to a Trio member for more

information. I will name our Regional Advisor Stephen Budai, as he lead this training, and he might wish share more information. D112 can be proud of our RA, Stephen, for the impeccable training he provided.

2024 Toastmasters International Convention in Anaheim

What an honour to be there at the opening of the convention. Our International President Morag Mathieson visited our District in May 2024 and shared a much loved Mauri phrase “He tangata, he tangata, he tangata”, the same phrase we used for our conference to answer the question “What is the most important thing in the world”. It is people, it is people it is people.

Then a very proud moment for me was flying the flag of New Zealand in the flag parade. It was just as humbling to see our country among the 121 nations being represented at the TM convention. I can report that we from New Zealand, North and South, made our mark at this convention which hosted about 1700 delegates from around the world.

Board of Directors Briefing – My report is in chronological order of the Convention, and I have a comprehensive report on their briefing in another document, however I will present a short summary here.

Summary: The new Learning Management System will be in place by late October, with a shutdown period during October for final testing. This will be the backbone for our new Pathway system – with many new features and ease of use
TI have developed the DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) program which has been implemented and training has been provided to all International Officers. Further training will roll out to District officers later this year.
The main focus of TI – is improving Club Quality, and an improved system of recognition for clubs is set to start next year, which will include Smedley Distinguished Clubs.
See the full report of these and other items at the end of this report

Hall of Fame

We may not have achieved Distinguished status this year, however our Region had District 90 in Sydney (North) achieve their Smedley Distinguished Status.
We also say Farewell to last years Region 12 Advisor, Matt who supported us from his home in Hong Kong. I would not be surprised to see him go on to International President, and possibly International President, as his support was exceptional and a stunning example of Integrity.

At this point, I would like to inform of our Regional Advisor, Stephen Budai DTM, who went on stage to receive his Regional Advisor pin in their pinning ceremony. We wish Stephen all the best in his advisory role.

Toastmasters International Annual Business Meeting

This is a very well attended event. Everyone is excited to see who would be elected to the top four positions and for the Board of Directors position. The election started, using electronic votes making it easier for those in person and online. More that 18000 votes were cast for each position, and for the annual business meeting, I held a total of 188 votes. Most of these were from clubs and I voted as instructed by the clubs on candidates and proposals. The Trio had interviewed all the positions, and the final results were what we expected.

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- International President, Radhi Spear, DTM
- International President-Elect, Aletta Rochat, DTM
- First Vice President, Stefano S. McGhee, DTM
- Second Vice President, Gauri Seshadri, DTM
- International Director, Region 10, Monique Tonna, DTM (Sydney, Australia)
  For a full list - https://www.toastmasters.org/about/board-of-directors/current-board-of-directors

Reporting on District 112 activities

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. This is a separate document and available on our website.

Vision

The District mission and purpose is based on “Growing Membership Together”. I thank all the Division and Area Directors, who are aware that decisions made will be based on this vision. It is our vision, and our path to a successful 2024-2025.

Other District Documents

After much work, discussion and finally a completed set of documents, the Trio can share these documents with the rest of District 112. These are in PDF format and have been published on the District documents page of the D112 website. When they have been approved at the DCM, we will forward these to WHQ who expect these by the end of September. (This year).

These documents are as follows:

1. District Budget
2. District Success Plan
3. District Marketing Plan

This ends my Report