Minutes of the Semi-Annual District Council Meeting held online on 26 September 2025

Meeting started at 7:00pm

Abbreviations used in the script below

DD - District Director
PQD - Program Quality Director
CGD - Club Growth Director
FM - Finance Manager
DP - District Parliamentarian
AM - Administration Manager
LM - Logistics Manager
IPPD - Immediate Past District Director
WM - Web Master

1. Call to Order and Welcome

DD Marlene Krone called the meeting to order and warmly welcomed all present with the following opening remarks.

Thank you for being here and for the commitment you bring to the work of this Council. We are here for an important purpose - to run the business of our district. As Council members, our role is to guide, support, and strengthen our clubs so that we can achieve our shared goal: to become a Distinguished District this year. From 1 July, we hit the ground running with that goal in mind. The only way we will succeed is by working together - building on each other's strengths, developing as leaders, and staying connected as one district. Mark, Sandeep, and I recently returned from District Leader Training in Philadelphia, where we saw the power of collaboration and camaraderie in action. And it reminded me of this truth: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Let's begin.

2. Meeting Officials

Officials for this meeting are:

- Presiding Officer, Marlene Krone DTM as District Director
- District Parliamentarian, Murray Coutts DTM PDDG
- District Zoom Master, Troy Smith
- Vote Manager, James Hippolite PDD DTM
- Chat Master, Stephen Budai PRA DTM
- Timer, District Logistics Manager John O'Leary DTM

Procedures for a virtual District Council meeting were outlined, and those present were asked to rename themselves on the screen by inserting their role (abbreviated) before their name. Members who held more than one role were requested to simply insert one role. The number of votes would be allocated accordingly.

3. Credentials Report and Confirmation of Quorum

DP Murray advised that a quorum for a Virtual District Council Meeting is one third of Club Presidents and Vice-Presidents Education.

Our District currently has 124 clubs, making 248 votes. One third of this is 83 votes.

He confirmed there were 92 votes present, and we do have a quorum.

In addition to the club votes there were 24 District Officers present giving a total of 116 votes - a simple majority of 59.

4. District Mission Statement

PQD Mark read the District Mission.

"The District Mission is to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence."

5. Speaking Rights

DD Marlene confirmed that only Club Presidents, Vice Presidents Education and District Officers have voting rights at this meeting. This included the right to move and second motions or amendments.

Speaking rights were also extended to all members presented, and that members of the District Council would have priority to speak.

All persons wishing to speak were reminded that a mover of a motion has two minutes with a one-minute right of reply. All other speakers to a motion have two minutes and may only speak once.

6. Apologies

AM Dione confirmed the following apologies were received for this meeting:

<u>Club Officers</u>

Cordula Fischer	Birkenhead Toastmaster Club
Ha Nguyen	Cambridge Treetown Club

Allister Jennings	Devonport Esplanade Toastmasters Club
Steve Holroyd	DRI Remark Club
Rachel Taylor	DRI Remark Club
Pam Martin	East Coast Bays Toastmasters Club
Jason Dunlop	Ellerslie Sunrise Toastmasters
Glen Irving	Ellerslie Sunrise Toastmasters
John Williams	Flying Start Club
Joanna Perry	Flying Start Club
Jobet Panton	Hamilton Club
Carol Bannister	Lake City Breakfast Club
Kate Scanlen	Ma Runga Waka
Naya Nantes	NB Consulting
Sara Joyce	North Shore Club
Joanna Perry	Northern Impromptu
Deborah Telford	One Hour Club
Chris Way	Papakura Toastmasters Club
Martien Kelderman	Pukekura Toastmasters Club
Stephen Lindsay	Review Toastmasters
Campbell Harrison	Rotorua Toastmasters Club
Wendy Booth	Rotorua Toastmasters Club
Carolien Oldehaver	Taupo Club
Glen Irving	Silver Service Toastmasters Club
Serena Irving	Silver Service Toastmasters Club
Beverley Storer	Waiheke Island Toastmasters
Marion Taylor	Whanganui Toastmasters Club

District Officers

Russell Keast	Area Director, W1
John Davies	Area Director, W2
Tracy Bovett	Area Director, S1
Cheryl Jacobs	Area Director, W5
Peter Drew	Area Director, C6
Paul Jacobs	Division Director Southern
Steve Vale	Division Director Harbour
Tatiana Maior	PR Manager

Other apologies:

Rupesh Malla from MCBC Club was added.

AM Dione moved:

“THAT APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED”

No seconder is required.

There being no opposition, the motion was adopted.

7. Confirmation of Agenda

DD Marlene called for any additional items to be added to the published agenda. None were forthcoming.

Motion is: **"THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED:**

Moved VPE MCBC James Hippolite

Seconded AD M4 Grant Pepper

There being no opposition, the motion was adopted.

Given the number of reports coming to this meeting, DD Marlene asked that all reports be received.

Motion is: **"THAT ALL REPORTS AND PAPERS FOR THIS MEETING ARE RECEIVED"**

Moved AD H1 Les Johns

Seconded VPE Pacific Stephen Budai

There being no opposition, the motion was adopted.

8. In Memorium

We have not been advised of any past District Officers or Toastmasters who have died since the last District Council.

9. Confirmation of Minutes

DD Marlene advised that the minutes of the Annual District Council meeting held on 17 May 2025 have been published on the District website. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Motion is: **"THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2025, AS CIRCULATED, ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD".**

Moved DAM Dione Coleman

Seconded VPE Papatoetoe Meegan Herewini

There being no opposition, the motion was adopted.

10. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

AM Dione was asked to delete the recording of the 17 May 2025 Annual District Council meeting.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for consideration at this meeting.

12. Administrative Matters

District Officer resignations

Since the 17 May 2025 District Council meeting, the following District Officers have resigned.

- Wendy Smith resigned as Area Director S2
- Sharleen Lu resigned as Area Director C4
- Gordon Gower resigned as Area Director S1

District Officer appointments

Since the 17 May 2025 District Council meeting, the following District Officers were appointed:

- Paul Jacobs – Southern Division Director
- Cliff Hall - Area Director W4
- Cheryl Jacobs – Area Director W5
- Les Johns – Area Director H1
- Tim Crankshaw – Area Director H2
- Fred Musika – Area Director H3
- Lily Li – Area Director H4
- Tracey Feickert – Area Director H5
- Keith Storey – Area Director C4
- Jennifer Storey – Area Director C5
- Tracey Bovett – Area Director S1
- Isabel Carter – Area Director S2

These resignations and appointments are published on the District website.

Motion is: "**THAT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROVES THE APPOINTMENTS AS LISTED"**

Moved PRE Ecocity James Edley `

Seconded PRE Hastings Peter Crofskey

There being no opposition, the motion was adopted.

New Club Allocation

Since the 17 May 2025 District Council meeting, the District Executive has confirmed the assignment of a new club, NB Consulting NZ Toastmasters Club, to Area M3.

This is for your information only. No motion is required.

District Director's TI Convention Report

District Procedure 13.5 requires our District Director to provide a written report to the District Council on her return from the Toastmasters International Convention. Her report was published with the papers for this meeting on the D112 website. DD Marlene added that the convention was insightful and amazing, and that some 1300 Toastmasters from round the world attended. There were inspirational speakers and educational plenaries. The convention was preceded by two days of district leaders' training.

13. District Finance Manager

Audit Committee Report

IPPD Richard advised that the District Audit Report was not complete. Once completed, it will be presented to a future meeting of the District Executive for approval.

Financial Statement for year ended 30 June 2025

FM Warrick presented the Financial Statement.

The report was incomplete due to accruals still to be reversed by TI. Once that is done, the report can be finalised, to be presented to a future meeting of the District Executive for approval.

The report was open for discussion.

James Hippolite, VPE MCBC, asked about the revenue from District Awards Night – if it's not meant to be in Conference Revenue, where should it be? FM Warrick replied that it sits in Other Revenue.

Andrew Pass, VPE Maungakiekie, queried why the conference revenue was substantially greater than budget. FM Warrick replied that the Conference team understated the registrations at that time. The conference revenue is quite high because it includes the lunch as well as the conference registrations (we are unable to segregate that out).

IPDD Richard added that the Conference Committee did not have a grant when they set the budget. They did get another $8,500 grant to support the conference which added hugely to the revenue.

District Profit & Loss account for the period 1 July - 31 August 2025

FM Warrick advised that the Profit & Loss Report was incomplete because TI has not closed off the months of July and August and, therefore, this report was not available to present to this meeting.

All of the above reports, namely:

- Audit Committee Report
- Financial Statement for year ended 30 June 2025
- District Profit & Loss account for the period 1 July - 31 August 2025

will be presented to a future meeting of the District Executive for approval.

Motion is: "**THAT THE APPROVAL OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025, AND DISTRICT PROFIT & LOSS FOR PERIOD 1 JULY – 31 AUGUST 2025 BE APPROVED AT A FUTURE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TO BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER 2025"**

Moved DFM Warrick Brooks

Seconded Murray Coutts VP Auckland Advanced

There being no opposition, the motion was adopted.

14. REPORTS REQUIRED BY TI ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The following reports require approval by this Council before they are submitted to TI by 30 September 2025.

The District Success Plan

PQD Mark presented the District Success Plan as published on the D112 website. He commented that the district is aiming to be distinguished by 30 June 2026 and the District Success Plan aims to achieve that.

Motion is: "**THAT THE DISTRICT SUCCESS PLAN BE APPROVED"**

Moved PQD Mark Tweedale

Seconded CGD Sandeep Kinge

There being no opposition to the motion, the motion was adopted.

District Marketing Plan

CGD Sandeep presented the District Marketing Plan as published on the D112 website.

Motion is: **"THAT THE DISTRICT MARKETING PLAN BE APPROVED"**

Moved CGD Sandeep Kinge

Seconded PQD Mark Tweedale

There being no opposition to the motion, the motion was adopted.

District Communications Plan

CGD Sandeep presented the District Communications Plan as published on the D112 website.

"THAT THE DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN BE APPROVED"

Moved: CGD Sandeep Kinge

Seconded: DAM Dione Coleman

There being no opposition to the motion, the motion was adopted.

District Budget for 2025-2026

DFM Warrick presented the District Budget for 2025-2026 as published on the D112 website. He commented that the budget aligns with policy limits as set by Toastmasters International.

Motion is: **"THAT THE DISTRICT BUDGET FOR 2025-2026 BE APPROVED"**

Moved DFM Warrick Brooks

Seconded PQD Mark Tweedale

There being no opposition to the motion, the motion was adopted.

15. District Director's Report

DD Marlene presented her report and the reports from all Division Directors. These reports have been published on the D112 website. She encouraged members to read the reports. There is an inspiring message from CEO, Daniel Rex, in the District Director's report which says: "*the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing*".

16 Program Quality Director's Report

PQD Mark presented his report with the following updates relating to Incentives and Recognition Program.

- "The Magnificent Seven" relating to club officers trained in round 1 - receives an Ah Counter Book for the club.
- "I love it when a plan comes together" – relates to completing the Club Success Plan by 15 September 2025 - receives a Timer Book for the club.
- "The Magnificent Seven" related to club officers trained in round 2 - receives a Grammarian Book for the club.
- "The Super Star Challenge" – relates to achieving 5 Distinguished Club Program Goals by 31 December 2025 and at least a net growth of +3 members from club base by end of March 2026, plus the Club Success Plan must be filed on time.

17. Club Growth Director's Report

CGD Sandeep presented his report with the following updates:

- A new club was recently chartered in Otahuhu, Auckland – NB Consulting
- 238 new members joined our district since 1 July 2025
- 41 Club Visit Reports have been submitted
- We constantly get queries about joining toastmasters, starting clubs, and running Speechcraft courses
- We have also held two hands-on Club Success Plan workshops to assist clubs, and so far 99 clubs have submitted their Club Success Plans.

DD Marlene commended her team for their amazing efforts to date.

18. PR Manager's Report

CGD Sandeep presented the Public Relations report on behalf of the PR Manager, Tatiana, with the following updates:

Working as per the plan and publishing flyers on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Since 19 September, paid boostings were made with some specific posts, which has resulted in successful enquiries.

We have new Facebook followers constantly, clubs are tagging our posts and we have had over 46,000 views and 900 reactions in the last month alone.

We have 1200 LinkedIn followers (up 10 on the previous month) and 8175 impressions and 287 reactions on LinkedIn – so our social media is getting great traction.

The Woolworths flyer is also getting traction, and we are getting regular enquiries from this.

DD Marlene commended the marketing team's campaign activities.

19. Immediate Past District Director's Report

DD Marlene invited IPDD Richard to present his report as published, which appeared to be last year's report as it talked about the convention at Anaheim, rather than progress towards district goals in the current year. *(Ref: TI Protocol 7.1: District Events Section 6H xii (District Council) states that "The District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director,* ***Immediate Past District Director****, and District Public Relations Manager report on progress toward District goals.")*

IPDD Richard presented a verbal report that last year we achieved 107% of our target of Distinguished Clubs, which was up 20% from the previous year. This was due to marketing work which was working. Our second target is membership payments and we hit 99.2%. The third target was Clubs and we reached 97.7% so just short.

DD Marlene thanked Richard for his report.

20. Consideration of the Reports

Motion is: **"THAT THE OFFICERS REPORTS BE APPROVED"**

Mover	AD M4 Grant Pepper
Seconded	PRE Bay of Islands Troy Smith

There being no opposition to the motion, the motion was adopted.

21. General Business

There was no matters of general business for this meeting.

22. Close

Before closing the meeting, DD Marlene made her closing remarks:

“I’d like to thank you all for your time, your dedication and your thoughtful contributions you have made in your roles in the year to date, and for turning up tonight.

Together we are not only running the business of our district but also building stronger leaders and stronger clubs within our communities. Our shared goal is clear – to become a Distinguished District - and every step we take together brings us closer.

Remember that the investment you make in yourself as a communicator and a leader also inspires others around you – so keep investing in yourself. Keep supporting one another and together we will achieve great things.

Special thanks to Murray Coutts DTM and James Hippolite DTM for getting the Votapex voting platform ready for this meeting, and to Troy Smith and Dione Coleman for all the preparations for tonight’s meeting. Let’s go forward and lead with confidence and learn with purpose.

The time is now 8:05pm and I declare this meeting closed”.

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APPENDIX 1 – ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Clubs represented:

Auckland Advanced
Bell Block
Birkenhead
Botany
Cambridge
Datacom Toastmasters Tahi
Devonport
Dinsdale
Dynamic Diners
Eco City
Franklin
Gallagher
Geyserland
Good Vibes
Hamilton Central Essential
Hastings
Hibiscus Coast
Karaka
Kings Speech
Maungakiekie
MCBC
Meadowbank
Morning Toast
NB Consulting
New Plymouth
Northern Impromptu
Orewa
Pacific Toastmasters
Pakuranga
Papatoetoe
Piako
Pokeno
Review
Silverdale
Spark Speakers
Sunnynook
Takapuna Midday
Taumarunui Club
Taupo
Toastmasters at Lunchtime
Twilight Talkers
Wake Up! Communicate
Wired for Sound

District Officers in attendance:

DD Marlene Krone
PQD Mark Tweedale
CGD Sandeep Kinge
DAM Dione Coleman
DFM Warrick Brooks
Division Director Central - John DiLeo
Division Director Manukau - Derek Hiscoke
Division Director Western - Cedric Marie
Division Director Northern - George Ham
AD H1 Les Johns
AD M4 Grant Pepper
AD N1 Spencer Penney
AD M2 Eimaan Hamid
AD H5 Tracy Feickert
AD S2 Isabel Carter
AD N2 Sonley Johnstone
AD C1 Georgie Templeton
AD H2 Tim Crankshaw
AD N3 Delia Yang
AD N5 Prisca Tang
AD M3 Yen Cheung

Appointed Officers in attendance

DPM Murray Coutts
Zoom Master Troy Smith
Vote Manager James Hippolite
IPDD Richard Perkins