

**Toastmasters District 55
District Executive Committee Meeting
Dayspring Christian Fellowship,
1895 S. Walnut St., New Braunfels, Texas
June 14, 2014**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by District Governor Bill Greenham, DTM who welcomed all participants.
2. **Inspirational Message:** Ian Muth, ACB, ALB, Area J-61 Governor, gave the inspirational message and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Reading of District Mission:** DEC members present recited in unison the District 55 Mission Statement: *"We build new clubs and we support all clubs in achieving excellence."*
4. **Roll Call:** District Secretary, Carol Davis, ACS, ALB, called the roll of the 60 voting members of the District Executive Committee. The 26 members present did not constitute a quorum. DG Bill Greenham stated that we will omit matters requiring a vote (adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2014 District Council meeting) until additional members arrived. Later in the meeting the 31 members that constituted a quorum were present and these votes were taken.
5. **Adoption of Agenda:** District Governor Bill Greenham, DTM, asked for adoption of the agenda. The agenda was adopted unanimously when a quorum had been established
6. **Secretary's Report:** District Governor Bill Greenham asked for changes or corrections to the District Council meeting minutes of May 17, 2014. Nasser Shukayr, ACS, ALB, raised a question about the total number of votes quoted by Gloria Williams, DTM, in her Credentials report. Discussion established that, as reported by Gloria, the total number of District 55 votes is 388. There being no changes or corrections, the minutes were adopted.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** District Treasurer Judith Lackritz. ACS, CL, reported that, as of April 30, 2014 the District checking account showed an unaudited account balance of \$68,343.30. The detailed Treasurer's Report will be filed on the District 55 website.
8. **Reports by Senior District Officers:**
 - A. Public Relations Officer: Jerry Barrett, DTM, reported that he has focused primarily on maintenance of the District website this year and that it is currently up-to-date. He has been reaching out very successfully to District members by e-mail. Officer trainings have seen record high attendance in the past year.
 - B. Lieutenant-Governor Marketing: Marie-Pier Clarke, DTM, reported on the two main functions of her office: building new clubs and retaining members. Eleven new clubs have chartered this year; another eight are about to do so and seven more are good possibilities. She asked those who have participated in demonstration meetings and who have mentored new clubs to stand and be recognized. To help clubs that are struggling and have fewer than 12 members, she assigned 13 club coaches this year. She thanked these coaches, stating that marketing is a team effort and that new clubs need a lot of help.

- C. Lieutenant-Governor Education and Training: Crystal Dyer, DTM, reported that District 55 members earned nearly 2,000 education awards during the past year. She commended F20 Area Governor Michelle Harper and L42 Governor Donna Cospers. All clubs in area F20 and area L42 were distinguished. Currently there are 18 clubs that are very close to distinguished status; she will be helping them to accomplish that goal by June 30th. Both conference chairs for the new membership year have the goal of doubling attendance at the conferences. In addition, First Timers will be more fully integrated into conference proceedings.
- D. District Governor Bill Greenham congratulated Humberto Vela, Khamphoy Sayavong, and Gwendolyn Fuller for their outstanding contributions in the past year. He also thanked members of his team and presented District Secretary Carol Davis and District Treasurer Judith Lackritz each with a bouquet of flowers; he presented Public Relations Officer Jerry Barrett and Parliamentarian Dan Jackson each with a gavel. He then stated that this has been a “tough year” for the District. In spite of our best efforts we have not achieved our goal of Distinguished District. However, because true success lies in knowing you have done everything possible, we *have* in fact had a successful year. Many members have worked together as a team and we can feel proud of what we have achieved. Bill closed his report by saying that he has enjoyed his time as District Governor and is proud of the efforts we have achieved together.

Parliamentarian Dan Jackson commended DG Bill Greenham for giving his all for the District during the past year and for coping well with many problems. He stated that Bill has inspired and motivated us and left a remarkable legacy for us to follow.

9. 15-minute Break

10. **Moments of Truth Exercise:** Following the break, Lieutenant Governor Marketing-Elect Amy Espinoza, DTM, assisted by Division I Governor Linda Oliver, DTM, presented a series of questions designed to help incoming leaders make the District Executive Committee meetings more effective and more valuable. LGM-Elect Amy Espinoza created groups, distributed discussion questions, and asked each group to appoint a spokesperson to report on their findings and suggestions. Linda Oliver recorded the answers to the questions. Suggestions included:

- 1) Give leaders more training concerning how they should carry out their duties.
- 2) Continue publicizing upcoming agendas well in advance.
- 3) Make more use of the Constant Contact account to keep leaders up-to-date.
- 4) Teach leaders how to use the TI Dashboard.
- 5) Ascertain that meetings start and end on time.
- 6) Have shorter meetings—begin at 9:00 and end at noon.
- 7) Create a professionally-arranged meeting room.
- 8) Combine face-to-face meetings with online meetings
- 9) Continue to use a central location for face-to-face meetings.
- 10) Use webinars for training—especially Chief Judge training.
- 11) Give recognition at different levels using different colors.
- 12) Use the Wall of Fame to publicize recognition.
- 13) Use lanyards to display recognition pins.
- 14) At meetings have a slide show of names of members present .

Amy thanked members for their input and stated she would like to have another session similar to this at the end of the coming membership year. DG-elect Crystal Dyer, DTM asked everyone to send e-mails to her with suggestions about best practices regarding recognition.

11. **New Business:** In answer to a question from the floor, Parliamentarian Dan Jackson, DTM stated that it is appropriate for the same Toastmaster to serve on the Nominating Committee and also to serve as a ballot counter when a standing vote is being taken at the District Council meeting.
12. **Announcements:**
 - a) The first DEC meeting of the new Toastmasters year will take place on July 19, 2014 at the YO Ranch in Kerrville.
 - b) Lunch and training of Dec members will take place immediately after adjournment of this meeting.
13. **Adjournment:** The final DEC meeting of the 2013-2014 membership year was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.