

# 2023 District 49 Council Meeting

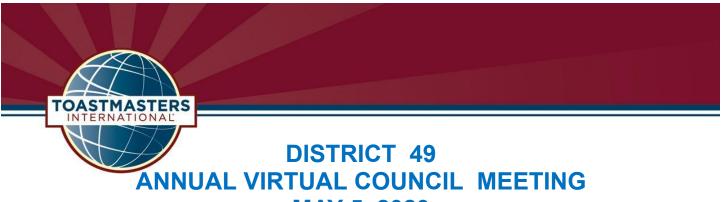
September 23, 2023

Presiding Charen Kepler, DL5 District Director

Agenda

| Agenda Order                    | Person Responsible                           | Timing<br>(all times HST) |  |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Call to Order and Welcome       | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5     | 10:00 am - 2 min          |  |
| Review of the District Mission  | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5     | 10:02 am <i>–</i> 1 min   |  |
| Review the Meeting Agenda       | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5     | 10:03 am – 2 min          |  |
| Voting Procedures               | Parliamentarian:<br>Raymond Liu, ATMB,<br>CL | 10:05 am – 5 min          |  |
| Credentials Committee Report    | Chair: Kory Ikeda, DTM                       | 10:10 am – 5 min          |  |
| Approval of Meeting Minutes     | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5     | 10:15 am – 5 min          |  |
| Appointment of Leaders          | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5     | 10:20 am – 5 min          |  |
| Business Requiring Adoption:    |  |                           |  |
| District Budget                 | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5     | 10:25 am – 10 min         |  |
| Year-end Audit Report 2022-2023 | Audit Committee Chair: Joseph<br>Omura, EC5  | 10:35 am – 5 min          |  |

| Speech Contest 2023-2024     | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5                   | 10:40 am – 5 min  |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Additional Reports:          |  |                   |
| Director and Manager Reports |  | 10:45 am – 15 min |
|                              | Program Quality Director:<br>Dominick Yamashita-Potts, IP4 | (3 min each)      |
|                              | Club Growth Director: Aiko<br>Hemingway, DTM               | (3 min each)      |
|                              | Immediate Past District Director:<br>Gerald Toyomura, DTM  | (3 min each)      |
|                              | Finance Manager: Anne Myers,<br>DTM                        | (3 min each)      |
|                              | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5                   | (3 min each)      |
| New Business [if applicable] | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5                   | 11:00 am – 5 min  |
| Announcements                | Administrative Manager: Tricia<br>Evans, DTM               | 11:05 am – 3 min  |
| Next Meeting                 | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5                   | 11:08 am – 2 min  |
| Meeting Adjourned            | District Director: Charen Kepler,<br>DL5                   | 11:10 am          |



## MAY 5, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order G. Toyomura District Director Gerald Toyomura called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
- II. Inspiration A. Gill Andrea Gill provided the inspiration.
- III. Reading of the District Mission G. Toyomura
   District Director Gerald Toyomura led the district in reading the district mission
- IV. Adoption of Meeting Agenda G. Toyomura One correction was made to the meeting agenda. The individual reporting the voting procedures is Sepiuta Holakeituai not Raymond Liu. The agenda was adopted as corrected.
- V. Explanation of Voting Procedures S. Holakeituai Election Chair Sepiuta Holakeituai explained the voting procedures.

# VI. Confirmation of Quorum – E. DeRego Credentials Committee Chair Eliot DeRego reported:

- 7) Simple majority would be 31 and a 2/3rds vote would be 41.

Quorum was present, hence, District business can be conducted. Without objection, the Credentials report was adopted.

Question by Joy Frelinger: What items need a 2/3rds majority. Gerald stated he does not believe there are any items, but our Parliamentarian will be looking that up. Parliamentarian reported that a 2/3rds vote is only required when a member's rights are being limited or the vote is to limit the rights of a member.

VII. Approval of District Council Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2022 – G. Toyomura Minutes of the September 24, 2022 District Council Meeting is approved as written.

### VIII. Officer's Reports were presented:

- a. District Director, Gerald Toyomura: I just want to thank everyone for the tremendous job that you have done this year, coming out of Covid, coming into in-person meetings and all that you've done to bring our district, your clubs, and our members back into Toastmasters. We are coming up on our goals. Coming up to having our clubs made. We can bring that back up if we work on some of our clubs that have gone down, help them out. We can bring our clubs up, also the payments, the membership renewals. People, new members are coming up. It looks like we're almost at our goal and we need about 144 members. It looks like we're going to start maybe 2 new clubs coming up in addition to the ones that we have already started and that's fantastic. I think that will bring us to our goal in new clubs, and we're just starting on our distinguished clubs and they're coming up. We have 7 distinguished clubs so far and we have a goal of 27 distinguished clubs. Many have their goals up to <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> goals and they need to work on membership to bring that up and their goals so that they will make distinguished. We have been putting together our efforts to help you all out and we ask everybody's help in bringing Toastmasters to everybody for the benefits of Toastmasters so they can improve their communication and leadership skills and their lives and I think there is nothing better than doing that with Toastmasters so I thank you all for doing that, putting your time in to help others achieve their goals.
- b. Program Quality Director, Charen Kepler: Thank you everyone for taking the time to be here and participating in District business. I just want to say thank you to everybody – all of the Program Quality Committee leaders and members. Here we are in May, our in-person conference is tomorrow so just really congratulations. We started off the year great with all of our officers training so thank you to Dean Masai and his Committee. Speech Contest – Nelson Nakagawa, thank you so much. After the conference is done, our focus is to really work on those memberships. And the distinguished goals as Gerald Toyomura has said. We are going to be celebrating those clubs that have made distinguished already. When we're looking through the District distinguished club site on Toastmasters International, we have a lot of clubs that are just almost there. I just really want to encourage all of you officers to go to the District Distinguished Performance Report for your club and look at your goals. We have some clubs that have already made the goals and just need to concentrate on the membership. Make a game plan for the next 2 months to either bring up the membership to get distinguished or to work on the goals to make distinguished. Congratulations to everyone. We're almost there at the end of this year. We still have 2 months to go but we have a lot to celebrate because we really have accomplished a lot this year and it is thanks to every single one of you. You are all important and we appreciate you.
- c. Club Growth Director, Lynn Araki-Regan: I want to thank each and every person who helped with new club creation, club growth and club retention whether it be chartering the recently chartered Social Media MetaVerse, Trainers Hub and Japanese English Bilingual Toastmasters clubs, helping to organize open houses and recruiting people to join clubs, helping out at any event such as the SHRM event that we had in the Fall to help promote Toastmasters, serving as a district leader, attending clubs, talking up Toastmasters, coaching clubs, mentoring new Toastmasters, celebrating Toastmasters Awareness Month or joining a club in addition to your home club to support a club that needs to achieve the 8 is great goal. Thank you so much. A big Mahalo to all who helped out this year. Although we experienced a dip in numbers, it's thanks to you that we have as much as 1,889 memberships and 59 active clubs with 8 or more members. Tomorrow we'll be recognizing people so I will postpone the names and clubs until tomorrow. In order for us to be a distinguished district, we need your help. Between now and the end of June we need at least 8

more clubs to get a minimum of 8 dues paying members or charter new clubs to make up for the clubs that have been suspended due to lack of membership. We ask for kokua in continuing to grow your clubs and participate in the Beat the Clock incentive program between now and the end of June. Also, if you know of any corporations or groups that may be interested in creating their own club, such as County of Hawaii, which hopefully is going to charter or Territorial Savings, please let me know.

- d. Immediate Past District Director, Kory Ikeda: Our greatest challenges are our greatest opportunities to learn, very rarely does everything go as planned. How we respond to the unexpected or changing circumstances with which we are presented is an opportunity to put into practice the critical thinking, communication and leadership skills gained through our Toastmasters membership. In all that we undertake, remember our Toastmasters core values of integrity, respect, service, and excellence. I encourage all our leaders to take some time to reflect on the year to date. What were your successes and challenges? Be prepared to share your lessons learned with your successor to help them in their role next year. Now is the time to elect club officers for the 2023 2024 program year. Please continue to seek growth opportunities for yourself and others.
  e. Finance Manager, Paulette Williams:
  - Balance as of February 28, 2023Total First Hawaiian Bank\$ 8,948.81District Reserve\$ 18,309.31Minimum District Reserve Required at Year End(\$ 5,121.15)Total Available Funds\$ 21,136.97There were no guestions, therefore, the finance report is filed subject to audit.

VIII. Election of District Officers 2023-2024 – Kory Ikeda, District Leadership Committee Chair Thanks to our Committee Members: Division A - Kevin Doyle, Division B - Joy Turbeville, Division C – Keith Olson, Division D – Lina Carahasen, Member at Large – Anne Myers. The DLC submits the following district leader nominations: District Director – Charen Kepler
Program Quality Directo - The nominated candidate has withdrawn and no other candidates were reviewed.
Club Growth Director Aiko Hemingway
Club Growth Director Alica Curtis

Division Director Rebecca Kanenaka

The District Leadership Committee has screened the aforementioned nominees and are convinced they will enhance the quality and performance of District 49 in the coming 2023-2023 Toastmaster year

- 1) Position of District Director:
  - No candidates ran from the floor
  - The nominee stands as presented by the District Leadership Committee in that we only have one nominee for the office of District Director
  - Congratulations to Charen Kepler, District Director elect 2023-2024!
- 2) Position of Club Growth Director
  - There were more than the required candidates. Each candidate spoke for a period of two minutes.

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- Voting was held and the votes are as follows:
  - Aiko Hemingway, 46 votes
  - Dominick Yamashita-Potts, 16 votes
- Election was held using Election Buddy via email and was overseen by:
  - Sepiuta Holakeituai
  - Kory Ikeda
- Congratulations to Aiko Hemingway, Club Growth Director elect 2023-2024!
- 3) Position of Division Director
  - There was less than the required candidates for the office of Division Director
  - Candidate Debra Chong informed the District Leadership Committee of her intent to run for the position of Division Director within the required 7 days prior to the election.
  - Candidate Debra Chong was nominated from the floor by Edean Rivera, Vice President Education, Hawaiian Dredging, Club 8673.
  - Candidate Paulette Williams informed the District Leadership Committee of her intent to run for the position of Division Director within the required 7 days prior to the election.
  - Candidate Paulette Williams was nominated from the floor by Shirley Watanabe, President, Hawaii Speakers Bureau, Club 7787892.
  - Candidate Katherine Li informed the District Leadership Committee of her intent to run for the position of Division Director within the required 7 days prior to the election.
  - Candidate Katherine Li was nominated from the floor by Paulette Williams, Vice President Education, Ala Moana, Club 3701
  - Voting was held and the votes are as follows (4 Division Director positions):
    - Debra Chong, 56 votes
    - Alicia Curtis, 51 votes
    - Rebecca Kanenaka, 49 votes
    - Katherine Li, 36 votes
    - Paulette Williams, 56 votes
  - Election was held using Election Buddy via email and was overseen by:
    - Sepiuta Holakeituai
    - Kory Ikeda
  - Congratulations to Debra Chong, Alicia Curtis, Rebecca Kanenaka and Paulette Williams, Division Director elect 2023-2024!
- I. Unfinished Business
  - None
- II. New Business

a. The Appointed Officer list, as distributed prior to this meeting, was corrected to read April 2023 – June 2023 instead of April 2022 – June 2023, and was approved as corrected.

- b. The 2023-2024 alignment report was adopted.
- c. Mid-Year Audit G. Toyomura

The Audit for July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, was distributed prior to this meeting as required. There were no questions and no objections; therefore, the mid-year audit is approved.

- I. Announcements
  - Thank you all for attending and electing our new leadership for next year.
  - Our District Conference will be held tomorrow, in-person at the Pagoda Hotel,

- We had a great year. We've been recognized by the Governor and Mayors.
- II. Adjournment G. Toyomura Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Imamura-Ryan

Sherry Imamura-Ryan, DTM District 49 Administration Manager



### DISTRICT 49 2023-2024 APPOINTED DISTRICT LEADER POSITIONS As of August 23, 2023 DEC Meeting

| Program Quality Director | Dominick Yamashita-Potts, IP3  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Administration Manager   | Tricia Evans, DTM              |
| Finance Manager          | Anne Myers, PDG, DTM           |
| Area 1 Director          | Paul John Castillo, IP2        |
| Area 2 Director          | Willie Jones, EH5              |
| Area 3 Director          | Jan Cerizo, DTM                |
| Area 4 Director          | Nyanika Chansrichawla, IP5     |
| Area 5 Director          | Robin Sherrod, IP, LD2         |
| Area 6 Director          | Fran Magbual, TM               |
| Area 7 Director          | Teresa Ubando, PM2             |
| Area 8 Director          | Eric Fletcher, IP3             |
| Area 9 Director          | Gloria Shishido, PID, PDG, DTM |
| Area 10 Director         | Emelyn Viloria, TC1            |
| Area 11 Director         | Lina Carahasen, DTM            |
| Area 12 Director         | Maureen Garry, PI4             |
| Area 13 Director         | Norapong Norodom, TM           |
| Area 14 Director         | Po'okela Mossman, PM5          |
| Area 15 Director         | Steff Kawasaki, EH3            |
| Area 16 Director         | Charles Woolfork, SR4          |

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|  | Jul-23 | Aug-23  | Sep-23 | Oct-23 | Nov-23 | Dec-23 | Jan-24  | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Apr-24 | May-24  | Jun-24 | Total  |
|--|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Membership Dues Allocation             | 202    | 1,666   | 7,656  | 1,078  | 285    | 132    | 634     | 2,396  | 6,722  | 1,245  | 369     | 1,245  | 23,631 |
| Conference revenue                     | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | 15,900  | -      | 15,900 |
| Fundraising revenue                    | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      |
| Education and Training revenue         | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      |
| District store revenue                 | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | 1,000   | -      | 1,000  |
| Speech contest revenue                 | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      |
| Total revenue                          | 202    | 1,666   | 7,656  | 1,078  | 285    | 132    | 634     | 2,396  | 6,722  | 1,245  | 17,269  | 1,245  | 40,531 |
| TI Allocation Expense                  | 90     | 90      | 90     | 90     | 90     | 90     | 90      | 90     | 90     | 90     | 90      | 90     | 1,074  |
| Conference expense                     | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | 15,900  | -      | 15,900 |
| Fundraising expense                    | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      |
| District store expense                 | -      | 600     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | 400    | -      | -       | -      | 1,000  |
| Marketing Outside Toastmasters expense | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      |
| Recognition expense                    | -      | 600     | 100    | 350    | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | 600     | -      | 1,650  |
| Club Growth expense                    | -      | -       | 200    | 500    | 200    | -      | 200     | -      | 200    | 250    | 700     | 1,150  | 3,400  |
| Public Relations expense               | 67     | 97      | 97     | 97     | 97     | 97     | 97      | 97     | 97     | 97     | 147     | 97     | 1,184  |
| Education & training expense           | -      | -       | 180    | -      | -      | 100    | 295     | -      | 50     | -      | -       | 200    | 825    |
| Speech contest expense                 | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | 500    | -      | 270     | -      | 770    |
| Administration expense                 | 90     | 680     | 430    | 90     | 90     | 90     | 90      | 190    | 341    | 90     | 240     | 90     | 2,511  |
| Food and Meals expense                 | -      | 800     | -      | -      | -      | -      | 360     | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | 1,160  |
| Travel expense                         | -      | 1,327   | -      | -      | -      | -      | 360     | -      | -      | -      | 1,520   | -      | 3,207  |
| Lodging expense                        | -      | 2,222   | -      | -      | -      | -      | 2,700   | -      | -      | -      | 1,350   | -      | 6,272  |
| _                                      | 247    | 6,415   | 1,097  | 1,127  | 477    | 377    | 4,192   | 377    | 1,678  | 527    | 20,817  | 1,627  | 38,953 |
| District net income/(loss)             | (45)   | (4,749) | 6,560  | (49)   | (191)  | (245)  | (3,557) | 2,019  | 5,045  | 718    | (3,547) | (382)  | 1,578  |

We, the undersigned, certify that this budget and narrative cover estimated receipts and expenditures for the district year. This budget directs the financial resources entrusted to the district toward achieving the district mission and will be presented to the district council for approval at its next meeting.

| <b>5</b> 7.1.1.1.8;      |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| District Director        | Date |
|                          |      |
| Program Quality Director | Date |
| Club Growth Director     | Data |
|                          | Date |
| Finance Manager          | Date |
|                          | Date |
|                          |      |

| Break even                    | Revenue      | Expense                              | Net            | Policy         |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| Conference                    | 15,900       | 15,900                               | -              | Meets Policy   |  |  |
| Fundraising                   | -            | -                                    | -              | Meets Policy   |  |  |
| District Store                | 1,000        | 1,000                                | -              | Meets Policy   |  |  |
| Minimum Expense Type          |              | Expense                              | <u>%</u>       | Policy         |  |  |
| Marketing Outside Toastmaster | s            | -                                    | 0.0%           | 5.0%           |  |  |
| Maximum Expense Type          |              | Expense                              | <u>%</u>       | Policy         |  |  |
| Education and Training        |              | 825                                  | 3.5%           | 15.0%          |  |  |
| Marketing Outside Toastmaster | s            | -                                    | 0.0%           | 10.0%          |  |  |
| Club Growth                   |              | 3,400                                | 14.4%          | 15.0%          |  |  |
| Public Relations              |              | 1,184                                | 5.0%           | 10.0%          |  |  |
| Recognition                   |              | 1,650                                | 7.0%           | 20.0%          |  |  |
| Travel                        |              | 3,207                                | 13.6%          | 25.0%          |  |  |
| Lodging                       |              | 6,272                                | 26.5%          | 15.0%          |  |  |
| Food and Meals                |              | 1,160                                | 4.9%           | 15.0%          |  |  |
| Speech Contest                |              | 770                                  | 3.3%           | 5.0%           |  |  |
| Administration                |              | 2,511                                | 10.6%          | 10.0%          |  |  |
| Total Membership Dues         |              | 23,631                               | 100.0%         |                |  |  |
| One of the expense categories | is under the | One of the exp                       | ense categori  | es is over the |  |  |
| policy min. Please review a   |              | policy max. Please review and adjust |                |                |  |  |
| appropriately.                |              |                                      | appropriately. |                |  |  |

| TOASTMASTERS IN Certification   | on for DISTRICT # 49  |
|---|---|
| Program Quality Director and Club Growth Direct<br>5. Quarter reports due to World Headquart<br>* September Report: October 31<br>* December (Audit) Report: Februa<br>* March Report: April 30<br>* June (Audit) Report: August 31<br>6. Submit approved narratives and certification p<br>* Scan and email the PDF to Distric | Atures are not acceptable.<br>International protocol 8.4, to the District Director,<br>for within 30 days after the end of the month.<br>Iters:<br>Intry 15<br>Deage to World Headquarters by email:<br>StFinancialReports@toastmasters.org<br>for the report to be accepted by World Headquarters. |
| In Base Currency  | USD   |
| Monthly Net Income/(Loss)   | (868.42)  |
| Year to Date Net Income/(Loss)  | 4,843.66  |
| Total Available Funds   | 12,136.39   |

1. We, the undersigned, certify that all District financial records have been made available to the Audit Committee for inspection and that any unpaid bills or other outstanding obligations for the 2022-2023 term have been reported to the Audit Committee and included in accruals section of this audit. We further certify that there are no other outstanding District obligations incurred for the 2022-2023 term.

Dated this 30th August dav District Director (for the year audited)

(ear audited)

(for the

Complete only for the Mid-year Report and Year-end Report:

for the 2022-2023 term in accordance 2. We, the undersigned members of the Audit Committee, have examined the records of District 49 with the Audit Committee Guidelines\* and believe that this report properly reflects the operation for that term.

day of Dated this

Chairman

Member

Member

\* Audit Committee Guidelines are available on the District Finance Corner of the Toastmasters International Website: HERE NOTE: Audit Committee members cannot be members of the District Executive Committee (e.g., District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Immediate Past District Director, Admin Manager, Finance Manager, Public Relations Manager, Division Directors, Area Directors).

#### **Accrual Template**

Instructions: In columns A, B, C and D, select the account label, reporting code, District flag and currency from the drop-down list in each cell. Type the amount in Column E and a memo describing the expense in Column F.



| District #: | D49                  |  |  |
|-------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Period:     | Year-End (June 30th) |  |  |
|             |                      |  |  |

2022-2023

Program Year:

This template is to be completed for any services and/or merchandise received on or prior to December 31 (Mid-year) and June 30 (Year-end) but have not been invoiced by the vendor or submitted by the member.

| Account Label   | Reporting Code                    | District Flag          | Currency        | Amount | Memo   |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| 10-000000- Awards Expense (Trophies, Plaques, Ribbons | District                          | 110 - Non District Ore |                 | 240.00 | District leader recognition                  |
| 016-000000- Meal Event Expense                        | 574-Recognition -<br>District     | 110 - Non District Ore |                 |        | 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Awards Recognition   |
| 060-000000- Transportation - Airfare Expense          | 953-Travel - District<br>PQD      | 110 - Non District Ore |                 |        | PQD travel for year-end Awards               |
| 060-000000- Transportation - Airfare Expense          | 957-Travel - Division<br>Director | 110 - Non District Ore | USD - US Dollar | 200.00 | Division Director travel for year-end Awards |
|   |                                   |                        |                 |        |  |
|   |                                   |                        |                 |        |  |
|   |                                   |                        |                 |        |  |
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|   |                                   |                        |                 |        |  |
|   |                                   |                        |                 |        |  |
|   |                                   |                        |                 |        |  |
|   |                                   | Total A                | ccrued Expenses | 940.00 |  |

8/31/2023 Outgoing District Director Date U

I, the undersigned, certify that I have agreed to pay the accrued expenses for the prior term. 8/31/2023

Date

Wimkepler

Incoming District Director

### Fixed Asset Template Instructions:

Type the fixed asset (any asset greater than US\$500) and a description of it in Column A. In columns B and C, select the type of item and the currency from the drop-down list in each cell. Type the cost of the item in Column D.



| District #: |
|-------------|
| Period.     |

Program Year:

Year-End (June 30)

49

2022-2023

| Fixed Asset Description                                      | Туре                             | Currency             | Cost (> US\$500) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| None   |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  | 201 20                           |                      |                  |
|  | -                                |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  |                      |                  |
|  |                                  | Total Fixed Assets   | -                |
| I, the undersigned, certify that I have given the 2022-2023  | fixed assets to the incoming Di  | -<br>strict Director |                  |
| I, the and orgined, contry that i have given the 2022 2020   | 8/20/23                          |                      |                  |
| Outgoing District Director                                   | D                                | ate                  |                  |
| I, the undersigned, certify that I have received these fixed | assets from the outgoing Distric | t Director.          |                  |
| akens Keplen   | 8/30/23                          |                      |                  |
| Incoming District Director                                   | D                                | ate                  |                  |

Please email this completed Fixed Asset Template to <u>districtfinancialreports@toastmasters.org</u>.

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July 25, 2023

Dear District Leader,

The Board of Directors has made an exception to the *Speech Contest Rulebook* and determined that all speech contests at the Area, Division, and District levels may be conducted either in person only, online only, or in a hybrid format for the 2023-2024 speech contest cycle.

In-person contests are defined as those in which all participants are onsite at the specified contest location. Online contests are defined as those in which all participants are online. Hybrid contests are defined as those in which some participants (contestants and judges) are onsite in a physical location, and others are online.

When selecting a contest format, consider the additional resources required to successfully support the chosen format. If you are considering a hybrid or online contest, review the <u>Online and Hybrid Speech Contest Best Practices</u> document from the 2022-2023 program year and consider details such as:

- Cost of the online platform needed to support your contest needs
- Cost of audiovisual (AV) equipment needed to run your selected contest format
- Additional supporting roles needed
  - For example, you may need people to run your technology, support contest officials and contestants, and coordinate logistics
- Additional contest official roles needed
  - For example, hybrid contests typically require a set of timers that are present online and a set present onsite

After evaluating these needs, ensure the selected format will not take critical resources away from initiatives that support the District mission and success in the District Recognition Program.

Your District Executive Committee must recommend the selected speech contest format (in person, online, or hybrid) for each level (Area, Division, and District) to the District Council for approval no later than September 30 to allow for proper budgeting. Once a format is approved for each level, no changes can be made.

Regardless of the contest format your team selects, all contests must be conducted live, with all speech contestants and contest officials participating during the event. Judging must be completed by the end of each respective contest.

If desired, your District may choose to record an in-person, online, or hybrid speech contest with only contestants and contest officials and play the recording during the District Conference to help prevent bandwidth issues that may arise when livestreaming a contest with a large audience. Also, if all contestants of a hybrid speech contest select to be in person, the contest officials may be in person as well.

We look forward to another invigorating program year of inspiring speeches, and thank you for your team's efforts in supporting speech contests!

Sincerely,

Speech Contests Team Toastmasters International toastmasters.org

This email has been sent to Area Directors, Division Directors, District Directors, Program Quality Directors, Club Growth Directors, Region Advisors, Past International Presidents, Past International Directors, and Past Region Advisors.



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### Speech Contest Committee Report to DEC – August 26, 2023

The Speech Contest Committee recommends the following for the 2023 2024 Speech Contest Cycle.

- 1. Area, Division, and District speech contests be conducted in an Online format only.
- 2. The International Speech Contest will be the only speech contest conducted this year.
- 3. Each club will be allowed to advance only ONE contestant to their respective Area Contests.
- 4. Each Area Contest will be allowed to advance their top two winners to their Division Contest.
- 5. Each Division Contest will be allowed to advance their top two winners to the District 49 Contest.
- 6. District 49's International Speech Contest winner's video recording will be submitted to compete in the Region 2 Quarterfinals.
- Area Speech Contests date: Saturday, March 9, 2024.
- Division Speech Contests date: Saturday, April 6, 2024.
- District Speech Contest date: Saturday, April 27, 2024 (restricted audience contestants and functionaries only).
- Contest Watch Party, Thursday, May 2, 2024.

The Speech Contest Committee is suggesting the following grouping for the Area and Division speech contests:

- Area Contests March 9: morning group: 2, 4, 7, 8, 9,12, 14, & 16; afternoon group: 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, & 15
- Division Contests April 6 (morning group = B & D; afternoon group = A & C)

The Speech Contest Committee will coordinate the following speech contest related training:

- Area Contests for Area and Division Directors in two parts. 1<sup>st</sup> session on November 18 (after DEC meeting) and 2<sup>nd</sup> session on January 20, 2024. Expect the sessions will be about 60 – 90 minutes each. Restricted to Area and Division Directors.
- 2. Division Contests If needed, will follow the Area Contest Training on January 20, 2024.
- 3. Judges Training will be conducted as part of the Area and Division pre-contest judges briefing. Attendance required for those who have not judged or need remedial training.

Clubs should plan to run their speech contests before the end of February, 2024

### Important:

If the above is agreed upon, several actions are required.

- 1. The DEC must recommend to the District Council for approval, that the selected speech contest format for all levels (Area, Division, and District) be online only. This must be done no later than September 30, 2023.
- 2. District Director must notify all clubs that, "Each club will be allowed to advance only ONE contestant to their respective Area Contests."

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions/concerns. Respectfully submitted, Speech Contest Committee Anne Myers, Sherry Imamura-Ryan, Kory Ikeda, and Nelson Nakagawa 2023 08 25 Speech Contest Committee Report for DEC meeting 2023 08 26