District 18 Fall 2024 Business Meeting

September 15, 2024

District 18 Logistics Manager and Fall 2024 Business Meeting Sergeant-at-Arms Nora Wade opened the meeting by reading the disclaimer regarding Maryland's Wiretap and Electronics Surveillance Act. Next, she welcomed District 18 Director John Comberiate, DTM.

John recognized meeting officials:
Timer: Sue Wilson, PI1 and District Chief Judge
Zoom Master: Naomi Savarro, MS3 and Finance Manager
Credentials Chair: Ben Christ, ACB/ALB and Past District Director
Parliamentarian: Mervin Bierman, DTM, Past District Director

Nora read the District Mission.

Mervin reviewed the Rules of Order.

Ben gave the Credentials Report and Quorum Status. (For a quorum, one third of 98 club representatives are required to be present. There are 69 representatives in attendance, therefore quorum was achieved.) John called for objections; there were none, so the report was adopted.

John reviewed the meeting agenda and called for amendments. No amendments were given.

Mervin reviewed the voting procedures and election rules.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

John called for objections; there were none. Adminstration Manager Regina Pepper cast a vote for the agenda's adoption.

2. Adoption of the Spring 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

John called for the adoption of the spring 2024 business meeting minutes. Program Quality Director and Blue Hen Toastmasters president Catherine Damavandi objected to the adoption of the minutes. Her objection is reproduced verbatim here:

"Catherine Damavandi, Program Quality Director and president of Blue Hen Toastmasters Club Number 06480246. At this time, I object to adoption of the spring 2024 business meeting minutes at this time. According to Robert's Rules of Order, 12th Edition Newly Revised Sections 41:10 and 459, objections to meeting minutes are to be resolved by proposed corrections to the minutes. In the draft of the meeting minutes that were provided, there were no minutes for the first day of the spring business meeting which was April 21st, 2024. That meeting, like the second one on April 28, 2024, was conducted over Zoom and recorded. During the April 21st, 2024 business meeting, there were issues with the voting system, which required our business meeting to be postponed until a later date. I do not recall the wording of the motions that were made to resolve the voting system or the number of motions that were made. Therefore, I move that we table the correction and approval of the spring 2024 business meeting minutes until the 2025 spring business meeting. This will allow the District

Council to review the recordings of the April 21st, 2024 business meeting so that the appropriate corrections to the meeting minutes can be drafted and proposed."

John asked for a second motion. Club president Jennifer Bush 4677485 seconded the motion.

No objections were made; the motion was passed.

3. Confirm Appointment of District Leaders

John appointed the previously made available members to the listed positions, which was approved by the District Executive Committee and must be approved by the District Council.

John called for objections. No objections were made; the listed officers are appointed as posted.

Administration Manager Regina Pepper cast a vote for approval of the appointed district officers.

4. Adoption of the District Budget

A copy of the budget was emailed and posted on the district website. A separate Town Hall was held on September 3rd for explanation and discussion of the budget. The budget has been approved by Toastmasters International.

John called for objections. No objections were made; the budget was adopted.

Administration Manager Regina Pepper cast a vote for approval of the budget.

5. Year End Audit Committee Report

Year End Audit Committee Chair Robert Logan, DTM presented the report. The audit committee (Robert Logan, DTM, Dr. Cheryl Wood and Ann Marie Walker) reviewed bank statements, payment approvals and narratives. No discrepancies were found.

John called for objections. No objections were made; the year end audit was approved.

Administration Manager Regina Pepper cast a vote for approval of the year end audit.

6. Additional Reports – Area and Division Directors, Public Relations Manager, Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, District Director

Division A:

Area 11 Director Angelique Goudeaux gave her report.

Area 12 Director Keysha Ryder gave her report.

Area 14 Director Asad Chaudhry gave his report.

Area 15 Director Lara Dyke gave her report.

Area 16 Director Patricia Pines gave her report.

Division A Director Kathy Love-Moore gave her report.

Division B:

There is presently no Area 21 Director; John gave the report.

Area 23 Director: Jessica Kehne gave the report.

Area 24 Director Marc Petrequin gave his report.

Division Director Jessica Kehne gave her report.

Division C:

Area 32 Director Toya McCrae (absent); Dr. Roxanne Lieberman gave Toya's report.

Area 33 Director Dr. Cheryl Wood (absent); Dr. Roxanne Lieberman gave Dr. Wood's report.

Area 35 Director Shea Lynch gave her report.

Division C Director Dr. Roxanne Liberman gave her report.

Division D:

Area 41 Director Alison Mee gave her report.

Area 42 Director Stanley Jean-Pierre gave his report.

Area 43 Director Larry Riggs gave his report.

Division E:

Area 52 Director Jayaprakash Radhakrishnan gave his report.

Area 53 Director Felicia Rowe gave her report.

Area 54 Director Melanie Williams gave her report.

Area 55 Director Daniel Comberiate gave his report.

Area 56 Director Timothy Redmond gave his report.

Division E Director Chad Welch gave his report.

Division F:

Area 61 Director Lori Magoon gave her report.

Area 62 Director Venus Harrison (absent); Carl Barsky gave Venus' report.

Area 63 Director: Abm (Bilal) Bayazid gave his report.

Division F Director Carl Barsky gave his report.

Division G:

Area 71 Director Jane Hoy gave her report.

Area 72 Director Jill Foster gave her report.

Area 73 Director Dana Thurston (absent); Dr. Michele Canopii gave her report.

Division Director Dr. Michele Canopii gave her report.

District Officers:

Public Relations Manager Mitchell Garber gave his report.

Club Growth Director Vincent "Taz" Ellsworth gave his report.

Program Quality Director Catherine Damavandi gave her report.

District 18 Director John Comberiate gave his report.

John stated the next district business meeting will be held **IN PERSON** at the 2025 District Conference on April 25th, 2025 in Newark, Delaware. Please plan to attend.

The district is hosting a Past District Director Mock Contest on November 9th from 2-6 pm at JWR Enterprise located at 11000 Broken Land Parkway, Columbia, Md. The directors will compete in the following areas: Evaluation, Table Topics, Humorous and International.

Fall dues renewals are open for clubs who allow self-pay and for club treasurers to submit online. Clubs that have at least eight members renew before September 30th are eligible for entry in a lottery to receive a $25 Visa gift card from the district.

Club Growth Director Vincent "Taz" Ellsworth is initiating three programs to assist with member retention and club quality:

The first program is the Club Ambassador Program. The chosen ambassador will attend meetings of selected clubs and give educational presentations regarding enhancing the club experience.

The second program is the Traveling Toastmasters Program. Traveling Toastmasters will attend meetings of a selected club to report on exemplary aspects of that club's meeting.   The highlights will be posted on the district site, newsletter and social media channels.

The third program is the Grab the Gavel Program. This program will be conducted in each division and is designed to inspire members to visit the gavel holding club These members will participate in the meeting and return the gavel to their home club. Photos and information will be published on the district site, newsletter and social media channels. The club with the most gavel grabs at the year's end will receive a prize.

Details of these programs will be provided in the near future.

Adjournment

John called for a motion to adjourn. Kirsten Harteis, VPE Club 1981 made a motion to adjourn. Club Growth Director Taz Ellsworth seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Pepper, District 18 Administration Manager/Southern Delaware VPE