



Meeting Minutes of District 47

September 25, 2021

Virtual District Council Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Logistics Manager, Darren Kennedy, DTM.

The Inspirational Message was delivered by Past District Governor, Pamela D. Rolle, DTM

The purpose of the meeting was stated by District Director (DD) Shakira Taylor, DTM.

A link to the agenda was provided by email and via the District 47 website. No changes to the agenda were announced. Without objection, the agenda was adopted.

The credentials chair and committee, plus timer and technical team support for the meeting were introduced.

Parliamentarian Huynh read and posted the Meeting Rules and Protocols in the chat at 10:19 a.m. Without objection, the Meeting Rules and Protocols were adopted.

At 10:22 a.m., Credentials Chair Jeanine Kinsey, DTM, PDD stated the Voting Procedures and Credentials Committee Reports. Kinsey stated there were 177 eligible clubs in the District. A quorum was achieved with 202 Presidents and Vice Presidents Education registered. There were also 40 District Executive Committee members represented, resulting in 242 total ballots available, with a simple majority of 122 votes if all 242 voted; and a 2/3 majority vote of 162, if applicable. This information was posted in the meeting chat. Without objection the credentials report was adopted.

A link to the May 1, 2021 District Council Virtual Business Meeting Minutes was provided by email and via the District 47 website prior to the meeting for review by the Council members. DD Taylor asked if there were any changes or comments. With no corrections, the May 1, 2021 minutes were accepted at 10:26 a.m.

At 10:27 a.m., DD Taylor presented the 2021-2022 District 47 appointed officers consisting of three (3) Senior Team Members and 38 Area Directors for ratification. One change was announced since the posting of the appointed officers on the District 47 website- Area 94 Director is now Charmaine Hanna. With no questions or objections, the named officers were confirmed in their appointed positions.

At 10:28 a.m., Finance Manager Alene Pruedhomme presented the District 47 2021-2022 Proposed Annual Budget. Motion was made by the same that the Budget be accepted by the Council. DD Taylor stated that no second motion was required as the Budget had already been approved by the voting members of the District Executive Committee. The floor was then opened for questions.

Question 1: Virtual Raised Hand – **Vincent Strachan**, DTM-Vice President Education, Club Carmichael # 6724527

Why was the Budget Line Item pertaining to Bahamian District Travel & Lodging not detailed?

Answer: DD Taylor explained the amount was for the District Leaders (The District Trio) and the District Executive Committee Members who would travel from Bahamas to the United States for the District Meeting and several would come in for the Conference

Question 2

(2 parts): Virtual Raised Hand – **Parisa Hamzesh**, DTM- President, El Cid Toastmasters Club # 576592

- 1) Last slide on Budget Report noting Projected Summary (slide shown and read for confirmation and understanding)-confirmed
- 2) Asked for clarification on the comment relating to the risk of losing the \$90,000.00 (the excess cash).

Answer: Toastmasters International (TI) had put out a document stipulating that if the District had in excess of 125% of the required IT Reserve Account, they could potentially take up to 50% of that amount. However, they did not implement the 50% excess cash for year ending 2021 due to the pandemic, but the anticipation is that they will implement it for the end of the next fiscal year – whatever is not budgeted will be left in the account, they will take a percentage of that amount.

Question 3: From Chat – **Arlene Griffiths**, President, Palm Beach County Toastmaster # 4055202

What is the specific proposal for spending the excess funds in order for it not to be reallocated to the general fund?

Answer: DD Taylor explained that TI gave them margins in which they have to work within. She also stated that the District projected loss, in an effort to reduce the amount of excess funds. She added that the District would be open to suggestions.

District Finance Manager, Arlene Pruedhomme added that TI advised that the District cannot go outside the individual margins to produce a greater net loss.

Revisit of

Question 1: From Chat – **Vincent Strachan**, DTM-Vice President Education, Club Carmichael #6724527

Why the Budget Line Item pertaining to Bahamian District Travel & Lodging still has no written detail?

Answer: DD Taylor explained that they do not provide narratives in the numbers portion for travel and lodge expenses, but they have to provide narratives for the Budget for Toastmasters International to explain how the funds were used.

Credentials Chair & Finance Manager, Jeanine Kinsey, DTM shared insights regarding Vincent Strachan, DTM's concern. She explained the breakdown of the funds budgeted for travel and lodge, stating that the funds are for the District Trio and District Leaders to attend various district and division level events, inclusive of DEC meetings (not Conference) as well as support for Club and training for the Trio. She further pointed out there is no need to include the narrative line by line.

DD Taylor noted the additional Bahamas District Executive Committee members for 2021-2022. Area Directors from the Bahamas increased from four to five over last year and Division Directors from the Bahamas increased from two to four over last year.

Question 4: From Chat – **Evelyn Benson**, DTM, President and Vice President Education, The Landings and West Kendall Toastmasters Clubs #4916034 and #8370, respectively.

Negative vs. Balanced Budget –“Where We Started” Page; are we okay with the projected loss? Is there a plan B should we exceed that negative?

Answer: DD Taylor assured TM Benson that we are okay.

Revisit of

Question 1: From Chat – **Vincent Strachan**, DTM-Vice President Education, Club Carmichael #6724527

Requested change to budget, that the explanation/answer given for **Question 1** be “stated” in the budget.

Answer: DD Taylor thanked him for his suggestion.

Question 5: From Chat – **Carl Nassar**, Vice President Education, Club Latamasters #3043022

“What base is used to calculate budget losses for projected fiscal year?”

Answer: DD Taylor answered, “Revenues- 20% of the Revenues budgeted.”

Question 6: From Chat – **Gloria Lafont**, Vice President Education, Sawgrass TM Club #590751

“What kind of support is provided to the clubs from this Budget?”

Answer: DD Taylor answered in summary-“Recognition and training expenses.” DD Taylor also noted that each club also has its own Budget.

Question 7: From Chat – **Daron McDonald**, Vice President Education, B.U.T. Shakers Club #6742900

“How do clubs request funds?”

Answer: DD Taylor answered, “They don’t.” DD Taylor further explained that funds are passed down to the clubs through incentives, Open House reimbursements, etc. “Check out the website for the different incentives available”.

With no further questions, a poll was conducted for approval of the proposed Budget. Credentials Chair Jeanine Kinsey read the results:

178 – Persons present in the room
158 – Votes cast
154 – Voted Yes
4 – Voted No

With a clear majority the District 47 2021 / 2022 Budget passed at 11:07 a.m.

At 11:08 a.m., Audit Committee Chair, Jennifer Walker, DTM presented the Audit Committee’s Report. DD Taylor asked if there were any comments. With no objections, the Audit Report was adopted at 11:11 a.m.

At 11:12 a.m., the following presentations/reports were given:

Presentation

Club Growth Director Report
Program Quality Director Report
Public Relations Manager’s Report

Presenter

Lois Margolin, DTM
Austen Canonica, DTM
Rodney Bain

At 11:30 a.m., DD Taylor recapped the following:

- Leaders are encouraged to Connect, Connect, Connect with members
- Use WhatsApp as a Tool for keeping in touch
- October is Toastmasters Month
- Shooting Star Awardees
- Division Contests will take place in November
- Five more days for renewals
- Hall of Fame dates: Bahamas: February 5, 2022 & South Florida: February 19, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.