

September 24th, 2022

<p>Call to Order & District Mission</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order by Logistics Manager Andrew Albury, DTM, at 10:01am, who followed with an oration of the District Mission and its guiding principles.</p>
<p>Inspirational Moment</p>	<p>After having all in attendance recognize themselves through friendly gestures, Past District Director Barbara Strasdas, DTM, shared tidbits of advice to make it through the rest of the Toastmasters 2022-2023 Year, which includes <i>(but is not limited to)</i> focusing on the goals, keeping your horizon in view, knowing your team and having their back, communicating clearly, listening fully and completely, sparking creativity in others around you, reaching out to unpaid members and reigniting their passion and their why in the program, planning open houses, enjoying the journey ahead, never doubting yourself, and believing that you can do it!</p>
<p>District Director's Opening Remarks</p>	<p>After greeting all in attendance, District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, had the National Anthem of The Bahamas, followed by the National Anthem of the United States of America, played.</p> <p>Once done, he introduced himself, hailed those in attendance both in the web virtual room and on the Facebook Live, and read webinar logistics for the session. He shared the importance of unity among the membership of District 47, and called for everyone to work together to achieve success in the District.</p> <p>The agenda was adopted without objection.</p> <p>He then introduced the facilitators of the webinar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timer #1 - Andrew Albury, DTM • Timer #2 - Antoine Rolle, DTM • Technical Coordinator - Lapeedra Damianos, DTM • Credentials Committee Chair - Maurice Fuller, DTM • Credentials Committee Ballot Observer #1- Jeanine Kinsey, DTM • Credentials Committee Ballot Observer #2 - Derek Garcia Rolle, DTM • District Parliamentarian - Brandon Kinsey, DTM
<p>Credentials Committee Report</p>	<p>Maurice Fuller, DTM, noted his role as Credentials Committee Chair, which is to ensure that ballots are officially distributed to voting members. He then presented the Credentials Committee Report. After a Point of Order was raised by Past District Director Jeanine Kinsey, DTM, the Credentials Committee Chair showcased the PowerPoint slides to clarify the correct numbers of the report. It showcased that of 328 (<i>164 clubs</i>) eligible voters, 198 eligible voters registered for this session, which represented 114 clubs. A simple majority of this is 100 votes, and a 2/3 majority is 133 votes.</p> <p>A test vote was sent out prior to the meeting, asking eligible voters to choose between Bill or Ted from Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventures. Of that vote, 83 (66.40%) chose Bill, and 42 (33.60%) chose Ted, which equaled 125 votes tallied from 110 submitted ballots (<i>63% of the 176 emails sent for said vote</i>), thus proving the process of the test vote successful.</p>
<p>Parliamentarian's Report</p>	<p>In sharing the General Rules and Procedures of the morning session, Parliamentarian Brandon Kinsey, DTM, greeted and encouraged those present in the virtual room to identify themselves in the chat, as the chat would soon be used only for discussion regarding matters on the floor and</p>

	<p>other business related to the meeting. He shared that the voting process will indeed be via email, that questions to be vocalized should be preempted and recognized by reaction button gestures, and that questions to be typed should be merely typed in the chat.</p>
<p>Approval of Past Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>The April 30th, 2022 Annual Business Meeting Minutes – posted in the chat, sent via email, and shared on the Toastmasters District 47 Website – were referenced, and District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, noted that they were reviewed by 2021-2022 Minutes Review Committee, which consisted of Immediate Past Administration Manager Michelle Washington, DTM, Past Club Growth Director Andrew Bern, DTM, and Area Director Elma Knowles. He also announced the 2022-2023 Minutes Review Committee, which consists of Administration Manager Ernesto G. Williams, DTM, Past Area Director Dhwani Shah, DTM, and Past Division B Director Roosevelt Jean-Francois, DTM.</p> <p>The minutes were adopted without objection.</p>
<p>Ratification of District-Appointed Officers</p>	<p>District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, recognized the List of Ratified District 47 Appointed Officers, which was shared on-screen and emailed.</p> <p>The list was adopted without objection.</p>
<p>Finance Manager's Report</p>	<p>Finance Manager, Anthony Elie, presented the District Budget for the 2022-2023 Toastmasters Year. He shared his role of overseeing the District's financial operations, and his close-knit work with the Trio and the District in making cost-effective decisions. He reminded those present that the goal of the District is to use finances to attain the District Mission, as opposed to maintaining a surplus in funds.</p> <p>He shared a comprehensive financial report, including how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the current year began with \$104,939, which was split between the TI Reserve Account (\$81,362) and the District's Business Account in Southeast Florida (\$23,577), • the July & August 2022 Expenditures equaled \$11,343, • total revenue for the proposed 2022-2023 budget is slated at \$117,131 and total expenses at \$116,020 to leave a net income of \$1,111, • a net conference revenue of \$3,550 is projected after a proposed deduction of conference revenue totaling \$45,500 from conference expenses of \$3,550, and how non-conference expenses total \$74,070, • projected cash in excess of Required Reserve Balance at 6/30/2023 is \$77,142. <p>In orating his confidence in responsibility being exercised in the proposed budget, the Finance Manager concluded his presentation and moved that the budget be accepted as presented.</p> <p>District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, orated the rules of discussion on the budget, as limited to 6 minutes in total. Discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Club Growth Director Andrew Bern, DTM, posed a vocalized question, "<i>how much money is being set aside for the Annual Conference, and is that based on it as a live, hybrid, or virtual conference?</i>" The District Director responded by noting that an in-person conference is currently being planned, that \$41,960 is being allocated presently to said event, and that revenue is anticipated that would exceed conference expenses in order to end with a net

zero. He shared the Budget Summary document as well.

- Past Committee Chair Cece Espuet, DTM, posed a vocalized question, *“you mentioned the ERP in the beginning of your report. I am not familiar with that term. What does that mean?”* The District Director responded with the meaning for the acronym as ‘Enterprise Resource Planning’, and explained it to reference all systems TI uses for financial backend operations.
- Club Vice President of Education Maria Lazano posed a vocalized question, *“I just had a question about the resources you guys have like Canva and Mail Chimp. Is that available to us as the clubs or just the district?”* The District Director responded that said resources are used primarily by the District’s Public Relations Manager and his team for district business.
- Club Officer Sonia Garate posed a vocalized question, *“can we use the excess funds for scholarships for TI Members who want to renew but may be limited in their personal budgets?”* The District Director noted that the policies of Toastmasters International forbid that practice, but advised that individual members can sponsor others, although the scholarship account idea is good and will be taken into account.
- Club Officer Trisha Jarvis posed a vocalized question, *“you mentioned why the Online Store was closed, and I don’t think I caught the full explanation. Can you repeat that part?”* The District Director shared again regarding TI’s ERP maintenance. He then extended time by two minutes.
- Darren Kennedy, DTM, *“can someone explain why conferences cannot be allowed to be budgeted to making a profit?”* The District Director explained that the TI Policy mandates such, and shared that he could look up more specifics as to how that rule came to be. Jeanine Kinsey, DTM, was also permitted by the Chair to share that Conference is not set to make money off of the members. Andrew Bern, DTM, chimed in with a typed-response through the virtual room chat.
- Marcia Dailey, *“is there a way to give a dual member a benefit on membership dues?”* The District Director reiterated his response previously given to Sonia Garate.

Upon conclusion of discussion, the voting ballot was emailed, and ended shortly thereafter. At 130 ballots cast, the vote revealed that the budget was approved as presented.

**2021-2022
Year-End
Audit
Committee’s
Report**

Joset Simms, DTM, presented on behalf of the Audit Committee. She stated that the audit was performed on August 2022 by the Committee that included Finance Manager Anthony Elie, DTM, Past Committee Chair Jane Cabrera, DTM, and herself. After stating the committee’s role of providing an independent and objective assessment of the reliability of the District’s financial records, she detailed the process that the committee underwent to accomplish their goal. It was found that all disbursements were correctly approved, that each transaction was confirmed and reflected accordingly, that no unusual audit findings were discovered, and the audit review was completed and submitted to TI on time.

**Club Growth
Director’s
Report**

Verna Bonaby, DTM, presented the Club Growth Director’s Report. In it, she introduced her team and clarified the District’s goals. She particularly highlighted that of the District’s base paid clubs of 164, only 1,333 of 6,691 member payments (19%) are in as of September 2022 with no Distinguished

	<p>clubs, and how 5,425 more are needed to hit the year goal of 6,758 member payments and at least 66 Distinguished clubs (<i>with a projected addition of 3 new paid clubs</i>). She encouraged everyone to support one another to attain membership goals and pay dues (<i>as District 47 is the home of the current International President and the host of the Toastmasters International Convention</i>), encouraged clubs to submit for Club Coaches, encouraged Toastmasters to become Club Coaches, shared how 7 prospective clubs are being considered, reminded all to reach for the Smedley Award, cheered for clubs close to charter strength, highlighted upcoming campaigns, and applauded other clubs for upholding their renewal status to date.</p> <p>District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, responded to a question from Past Division Director Phyllis May, DTM, which inquired about the probable storm on the way and how it would affect dues payments and club progress. In his response, he encouraged clubs to contact TI, as such a decision is beyond the District to make.</p>
<p>Program Quality Director's Report</p>	<p>Lois Margolin, DTM, presented the Program Quality Director Report. In it, she introduced her team, and she referenced that 93% of Area and District Directors were trained, 85% of clubs had at least 4 of their officers trained, that several new DTMs are being minted, that 423 levels (<i>21.15% towards 2000 levels</i>) in Pathways have been completed thus far, that Triple Crown Awards showcase Barbara Weinstein (14 levels) and Erica Alves (15 levels) trailblazing thus far, and that releases, events, conference-related goals, and incentives are upcoming. District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, noted that these would be made available to all.</p>
<p>Public Relations Manager's Report</p>	<p>District Director Austen Canonica, DTM, played L. Robert Knowles' video of his Public Relations Report presentation, as he was unable to be present due to a work obligation. In it, he recanted his origin story in the role, from building his team, making improvements to the District 47 Website, publicizing District news through its social media pages, etc.</p>
<p>New Business & Announcements</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:45am. No objections.</p>