



## **MINUTES | DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday 13 May 2023 - 1:00pm**

Online via Zoom

**1. Call to Order - Sergeant-at-Arms, Darren Law**

The meeting was called to order at 1:28pm

**2. Explanatory Remarks - Parliamentarian, Maree Pickens**

Parliamentarian, Maree Pickens gave an overview on eligibility to cast a vote, voting method, meeting rules, timing and rules for speaking from the floor.

**3. Welcome and Introductions - District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

District Director Gavin Hyslop welcomed all the meeting and declared the meeting open welcomed all attendees.

District Director, Gavin Hyslop apologised for the delay to the commencement of the meeting and explained that Toastmasters International's changes to how club votes can be allocated caused some confusion, along with some technical difficulties.

District Director, Gavin Hyslop introduced members of the Executive Team:

- Program Quality Director, Peggy Leung
- Immediate Past District Director, Tim Blackburn DTM

District Director, Gavin Hyslop introduced the officials for the meeting:

- Parliamentarian, Maree Pickens DTM
- Credentials Committee Chair, Allen Hahn DTM
- Credentials Committee Members, Ross Wilkinson DTM, Leonor Ragan DTM and Sue Fallon DTM

District Director Gavin Hyslop introduced the technical support team for the meeting:

- Zoom Master, Tom Bielski
- Zoom Master, Darren Law
- Chat Monitor, Darren Law
- Timer, Juliana Kelly

**4. Acknowledgement of Country - District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

District Director, Gavin Hyslop gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

**5. District Mission**

The District Mission was read by Program Quality Director, Peggy Leung.

**6. Apologies - District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

Apologies were received from the following District Council Members:

- bToasty, VPE, Alfred Tee
- Events Hub, VPE, Julie Dall
- CGH, President, Rosa Cummins

- Como Communicators, President, Angeline Ong
- CPA, VPE, Patricia Ong
- Events Hub, President, Cherie Wallace Melville, President & VPE, Khashayar Afshar
- Young Guns, VPE, Andrea Powell
- Freemantle Gourmet, VPE, Sophy Gotsis
- Club Growth Director, Jeff Zhang
- Finance Manager, Leonisa Manea
- West End, President, Nathan Brown
- Northern Gourmet, President, Angela Burchardt
- Donny Brook Gourmet, President, Paul Foley
- Area Director, Kalavathy Govindarajoo
- Butler, VPE, Souzy Theophilopoulos

**7. Inspiration – Juliana Kelly**

An inspirational speech was given by Juliana Kelly about leadership and taking advantage of opportunities.

**8. Presentation of Credentials Committee Report - Credentials Committee Chair, Allen Hahn DTM**

Credentials Committee Chair reported that each club in good standing is eligible for two votes, which can be held by either the President and/or the Vice President Education.

There are 68 clubs in District 17 with 52 clubs in good standing.

To achieve a quorum, one-third of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of eligible clubs must be represented. The total number of Presidents and Vice Presidents Education is 104, requiring 35 to achieve a quorum.

There are 37 Club Votes held by Presidents and/or Vice Presidents Education in attendance today. As such we have achieved a quorum.

There are also 7 District Executive Committee members represented. District Executive Committee members do not count towards achieving a quorum.

The total votes available are 44.

In today's meeting, a simple majority is 23 votes; and a 2/3 majority is 30 votes.

District Director, Gavin Hyslop announced that the Credentials Committee report is accepted and thanked the Committee for their work.

**9. Minutes - District Council Meeting held 22 September 2022 - District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM**

**Motion:** "That the District Council adopt the minutes of the 22 September 2022 District Council Meeting as presented"

**Moved:** Tim Blackburn

**Seconded:** Jill Kadota

**Resolution:** Carried 31/1

**10. Review and Adoption of Agenda – District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

**Motion:** "That the District Council adopt the agenda as presented."

**Moved:** Darren Law

**Seconded:** Charles Fisher

**Resolution:** Carried 30/0

**11. Presentation of Profit and Loss Statement – District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

An updated profit and loss statement was presented by District Director, Gavin Hyslop on behalf of the

Finance Manager, Leonisa Manea.

District Director, Gavin Hyslop announced that the Profit and Loss Statement is accepted.

**12. Presentation of Audit Committee Report for July to December 2022** – District Director, Gavin Hyslop

District Director, Gavin Hyslop presented Audit Committee Sign Off for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 December 2022, and announced that the Report was accepted.

**13. Confirmation of Hall of Fame Committee Report Extension** – District Director, Gavin Hyslop

**Motion:** “That the District Council confirms the recommendation of the District Director that the previously approved motion to establish a Committee to investigate establishing a District 17 Hall of Fame, with the Committee reporting their recommendation to the May 2022 District Council Meeting, is to be extended and that incoming District Management Team report back to the District Council at the September 2023 District Council Meeting.”

**Moved:** Maree Pickens

**Seconded:** Jill Kadota

**Resolution:** Carried 38/2

**14. Confirmation of District Procedures Manual Update Extension** – District Director, Gavin Hyslop

**Motion:** “That the District Council confirms the recommendation of the District Director that the previously approved motion to appoint a Sub-Committee to investigate any required changes to the current District Procedures Manual, and for a proposed updated District Procedures Manual to be presented for approval by the District Council at the May 2023 meeting, to be extended and that incoming District Management team report back to the District Council at the September 2023 District Council meeting, with their recommendations.”

**Moved:** Jill Kadota

**Seconded:** Maree Pickens

**Resolution:** Carried 41/0

**Recess** The District Director called a 5 minute Recess.

**15. Adoption of Alignment of Clubs within Divisions and Areas** – District Director, Gavin Hyslop

**Motion:** “That the District Council approves the realignment of Clubs within Divisions and Areas” as presented.

**Moved:** Darren Law

**Seconded:** Jill Kadota

**Resolution:** Carried 40/0

**16. District Leadership Committee Report** – District Leadership Committee Chair, Tim Blackburn DTM

District Leadership Committee Chair, Tim Blackburn DTM presented District Leadership Committee Report.

The District Director, Gavin Hyslop announced that the Report was accepted.

**17. Election of District Officers** – District Director, Gavin Hyslop

The District Leadership Committee (DLC) endorsed candidates for the offices of District Director, Program Quality Director, Eastern Division Director, and Southern Division Director. Only 1 nomination is required for these offices to be deemed complete in the DLC Report and therefore are uncontestable.

The District Leadership Committee (DLC) endorsed a candidate for the office of Club Growth Director. 2 nominations are required for this office to be deemed complete in the DLC Report and therefore this office is contestable.

The District Leadership Committee (DLC) did not endorse candidates for the offices of Central Division Director, and Northern Division Director, and therefore these offices are contestable.

## **Uncontested Offices**

1. Office of District Director was uncontested.
  - a. Ian Pickens was nominated by the DLC.
  - b. The District Director directing that a single vote be cast in favour.
  - c. Ian Pickens was declared elected to the office of District Director.
2. Office of Program Quality Director was uncontested.
  - a. Jeff Zhang was nominated by the DLC.
  - b. Jeff Zhang was declared elected to the office of Program Quality Director.
3. Office of Eastern Division Director was uncontested,
  - a. Darren Law was nominated by the DLC.
  - b. The District Director directing that a single vote be cast in favour.
  - c. Darren Law was declared elected to the office of Eastern Division Director.
4. Office of Southern Division Director was uncontested
  - a. Milvert Ling was nominated by the DLC.
  - b. The District Director directing that a single vote be cast in favour.
  - c. Milvert Ling was declared elected to the office of Southern Division Director.

## **Floor Candidates**

There were 2 members eligible to run from the floor for the contestable offices of Club Growth Director (required number of nominations not met in DLC Report), Central Division Director (no nominations in DLC Report), and Northern Division Director (no nominations in DLC Report), with their nominations received by 1pm on Saturday 6th May, therefore elections were held for these offices.

The 2 floor candidates were:

1. Dipak Saha
2. Ben Tian

## **Contested Offices**

1. Election for office of Club Growth Director
  - a. Tom Bielski was nominated by the DLC.
  - b. District Director called for nominations from the floor.
  - c. No additional nominations were received.
  - d. The District Director directing that a single vote be cast in favour.
  - e. Tom Bielski was declared elected to the office of Club Growth Director.
2. Election for office of Central Division Director
  - a. No members were nominated by the DLC.
  - b. District Director called for nominations from the floor.
  - c. Nominations were received from Ben Tian and Dipak Saha. As self nominations, the nominations were deemed accepted.
  - d. An election was held with a majority voting in favour of Ben Tian.
  - e. Ben Tian was declared elected to the office of Central Division Director.
3. Election for office of Northern Division Director
  - a. No members were nominated by the DLC.
  - b. District Director called for nominations from the floor.
  - c. Nominations were received from Dipak Saha. As a self nomination, the nomination was deemed accepted.
  - d. No additional nominations were received.

- e. The District Director directing that a single vote be cast in favour.
- f. Dipak was declared elected to the office of Northern Division Director.

### **Summary of District Office Elections**

District Officers elected for 2023-2024 are:

- District Director – Ian Pickens
- Program Quality Director – Jeff Zhang
- Club Growth Director – Tom Bielski
- Central Division Director - Ben Tian
- Eastern Division Director – Darren Law
- Northern Division Director – Dipak Saha
- Southern Division Director – Milvert Ling

### **18. Presentation of Reports on Progress towards District Success Plan – District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

Reports from the Executive group were emailed in advance to District Council Members with a link to the reports on the District 17 website. Verbal reports were presented by the following officers.

- Club Growth Director, Gavin Hyslop on behalf of Jeff Zhang
- Program Quality Director, Peggy Leung
- District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM

District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM announced that the reports are accepted.

### **19. Division & Area Reports – District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

Reports from the Division Directors and Area Directors were emailed in advance to District Council Members with a link to the reports on the District 17 website.

District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM announced that the reports are accepted.

### **20. District Conference Bids Discussion – District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM noted that no bids have yet been received for running the District Conference in 2024.

### **21. Announcements – District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

District Director, Gavin Hyslop reminded everyone of the Conference Workshops and Contests being held online next weekend and encouraged everyone to try and attend, as well as encouraging other Toastmasters to attend.

District Director, Gavin Hyslop introduced the Incoming District Director to address the current District Council with his plans & ideas.

Incoming District Director, Ian Pickens broadly discussed his plans and ideas for the coming year, thanking the team that was elected today and noted that he intended to make some other key appointments as follows:

- Administration Manager – Maree Pickens
- Parliamentarian – Ross Wilkinson
- Website Manager – Julie Dall
- Speechcraft Course Coordinator – Juliana Kelly
- Gavel Club Coordinator – Kevin Sansome

### **22. Next Meeting - District Director, Gavin Hyslop**

Next District Council Meeting is planned to be held in September 2023 with details to be confirmed by the

Incoming District Director, Ian Pickens.

**23. Adjourn the Meeting and Meeting Close** – District Director, Gavin Hyslop

District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM thanked all who attended for their patience with initial delays, their valuable input in supporting their clubs and the members of the District, and those had helped the meeting run as smoothly as possible.

The meeting was adjourned by District Director, Gavin Hyslop DTM at 3.37pm.