



**DISTRICT 17
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING #4
2025- 2026
MINUTES**

April 18, 2026



Table of Contents

1.	Call to Order	3
2.	Welcome	3
3.	Inspiration.....	3
4.	Explanatory Remarks.....	3
5.	Apologies.....	3
6.	Reading of District Mission	4
7.	Credentials Committee Report	4
8.	Review & Adoption of Agenda	4
9.	Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting	4
10.	Proposed District Realignment Report.....	4
11.	District Budget Review.....	5
12.	District Profit & Loss Statement Review	5
13.	District Success Plan Review	5
14.	Presentation of Reports Towards District Success Plan	6
14.1	District Director Report	6
14.2	Program Quality Director Report.....	6
14.3	Club Growth Director Report.....	6
14.4	District Public Relations Manager Report.....	7
14.5	Immediate Past District Director Report inc. District Leadership Committee Report..	7
15.	Division Director Reports	7
15.1	Central Division Director Report.....	7
15.2	Northern Division Director Report.....	7
15.3	Southern Division Director Report	7
16.	Area Director Reports	8
16.1	Area C1 Director Report	8
16.2	Area C2 Director Report	8
16.3	Area C3 Director Report	8
16.4	Area C4 Director Report	8
16.5	Area N21 Director Report	8
16.6	Area N22 Director Report	9
16.7	Area N23 Director Report	9
16.8	Area N24 Director Report	9
16.9	Area S31 Director Report.....	10
16.10	Area S32 Director Report.....	10
16.11	Area S33 Director Report.....	10
16.12	Area S34 Director Report.....	10

17.	Other Business.....	10
17.1	District Director Address.....	10
17.2	Program Quality Director Address.....	11
18.	Next Meeting	11
19.	Meeting Adjourned	11

District 17 Minutes DECM # 2

December 6, 2025

1. Call to Order

District Director, Tom Bielski, called the meeting to order at 9.39am.

2. Welcome

District Director, Tom Bielski, welcomed all and thanked attendees for their commitment to the District by attending this meeting early on a Saturday.

3. Inspiration

Area N21 Director, Eloyise Braskic, offered the Inspirational Opening stating that to predict the future, we must understand the past. She related a story about a long-standing club in her Area which was almost going to close and how a meeting with our District Director, Program Quality Director and herself with the committee of that club has given them the inspiration to continue. With such long standing members, it was inspirational that we don't lose all their experience and wealth of knowledge.

4. Explanatory Remarks

District Parliamentarian, Ross Wilkinson, offered Explanatory Remarks to explain that this meeting was by invitation only and that we would follow Robert's Rules.

5. Apologies

District Administration Manager, Robyn Richards, announced that she had received 7 apologies via email from;

Area C2 Director, Usha Ramen

Public Relations Manager, Angela Booker

District Finance Manager, Kalavathy Govindarajoo

Northern Division Director, Raymond Brestovac

Area C3 Director, Guru Gupta

Area C4 Director, Mariana Paliu

Area S31 Director, Somesh Ganesh

Area S32 Director, Suthan Mayilvaganam

She then called for any apologies from the floor.

As there were none, the apologies were accepted.

6. Reading of District Mission

Club Growth Director, Desmond Miranda read the District Mission.

7. Credentials Committee Report

District Parliamentarian, Ross Wilkinson, offered the Credentials Report as follows;

Total votes This Year	22 (1 Vacancy)
Simple Majority	7
Two Thirds Majority	8
Quorum 50% + 1	12
Attendees	12

A Quorum is met.

Credentials Report Accepted.

8. Review & Adoption of Agenda

District Director, Tom Bielski, moved that the agenda as distributed to delegates via email and posted on the District 17 website, be adopted.

Seconded: Area N21 Director, Eloyise Braskic

Adopted

9. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

District Administration Manager, Robyn Richards, moved that the minutes of the previous DECM which had been on the district website and distributed via email be accepted.

Seconded: Area S34 Director, Morrie Goodz

Approved

10. Proposed District Realignment Report

District Club Growth Director & Realignment Committee Chair, Desmond Miranda presented the proposed District Realignment Report. He named and thanked the team; Central Division Director, Ian Pickens, Northern Division Director, Raymond Brestovac and Southern Division Director, Cassie Walraven. There was much discussion regarding this item and speakers spoke to and against the proposal.

Speaking For the proposal;

Morrie Goodz

Speaking Against the proposal;

Robyn Richards

Tom Bielski

Maree Pickens

Program Quality Director, Maree Pickens stated that it wasn't a definite that Presentation Masters would Charter before the DCM and in that case, Area S31 would not be compliant with Toastmasters Guidelines for Districts as there would only be 3 clubs.

There was much discussion and finally, Area S34 Director, orrie Goodz moved the motion to amend the Alignment Proposal to move Sangam Tamil from Area S32 to Area S31.

Seconded: Program Quality Director, Maree Pickens

Vote: Unanimous

More discussion followed now that the proposal was compliant.

Speaking For the proposal;

Speaking Against the proposal;

Maree Pickens

Eloyise Braskic

District Director, Tom Bielski closed the discussion and called for a vote.

For: 9

Against: 3

Vote: Carried

11. District Budget Review

District Director, Tom Bielski submitted the District Budget to date as distributed via email and on the District 17 website for Review and Approval. (See Tabled Report)

Approved

12. District Profit & Loss Statement Review

District Director, Tom Bielski, presented the Profit and Loss Statement as distributed via email and on the District 17 website. He stated that we are on track to meet expectations even though we had not spent the budgeted amount on marketing. He asked all members of this committee to suggest ideas on how we could use this budgeted amount before the end of the year.

He asked that the tabled and verbal reports be approved. (See Tabled Report)

Approved

13. District Success Plan Review

District Director, Tom Bielski, asked if this item could be covered in his and the other members of the Trio's Reports.

Accepted

14. Presentation of Reports Towards District Success Plan

14.1 District Director Report

District Director, Tom Bielski, thanked the leaders in the room and announced that he was extremely please to say we are on target to achieve at least Distinguished District, but he urged for us to aim higher in these last few months of this Toastmasters year. He stated that the success of the District is this committee's success and stated he is proud to have led the District this year. He asked that we instil into our successors that the legacy this team of leaders leave, is that the District ALWAYS achieve at least Distinguished status. (See Tabled Report)

He then asked that his tabled and verbal reports be accepted.

Accepted

14.2 Program Quality Director Report

Program Quality Director, Maree Pickens, stated that she is very much organised for the conference and the District Contests. She will be sending emails to all contestants this week and Judges shortly after that.

Bookings for conference are going great with 102 registrations overall, 74 being full weekend tickets. She urged members of this committee to not take too long to decide if they want to attend as the room limit is 126, so bookings will close before the event.

She is very pleased with the results so far of the March to Distinguished campaign. At this moment there are 20 club on that list with 3 more on the verge of making it.

There are some club milestones coming up which she wants to acknowledge: Swan will celebrate 25 years soon and Sandgroper will celebrate 50 years soon.

She announced some Pathways workshops that District Pathways Champion, Karen Passameni ran on Easter Monday and will be repeating on the ANZAC Monday holiday. (See Tabled Report)

She then asked that her tabled and verbal reports be accepted.

Accepted

14.3 Club Growth Director Report

Club Growth Director, Desmond Miranda, was extremely happy to report that we have done well in building new clubs, we have chartered 4 new clubs so far. At the moment, we have 1 club NOT in good standing since April Renewals and there is a team of leaders working with the club to resolve that soon.

He is hopeful to have Presentation Masters Chartered by year end.

Regarding leads for more new clubs, he has a pipeline to keep working on this year and to hand on to the CGD next year. They include;

Rio Tinto, Yugo, Home City Church and City of Karratha.

Unfortunately, City of Canning and City of Wanneroo have fallen of the list at this time. (See Tabled Report)

He then asked that his tabled and verbal reports be accepted.

Accepted

14.4 District Public Relations Manager Report

District Director Tom Bielski asked that the District Relations Manager, Angela Booker's Report as tabled be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

14.5 Immediate Past District Director Report inc. District Leadership Committee Report

District Director Tom Bielski asked that the Immediate Past District Director's, Jeff Zhang report, including the District Leadership Committee Report as tabled, be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

15. Division Director Reports

15.1 Central Division Director Report

Central Division Director, Ian Pickens stated he has not much more information than his tabled report, however he would like to celebrate Mariana and Guru for their efforts to charter new clubs in their Areas.

He said the Division only needs 50 more members across all Areas to achieve Presidents Distinguished Division. He encouraged all members of the Division to strive for this status.

He asked that his tabled and verbal reports be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

15.2 Northern Division Director Report

Not in Attendance – (See Tabled Report)

District Director, Tom Bielski asked that the Northern Division Report as tabled be accepted.

Accepted

15.3 Southern Division Director Report

Southern Division Director, Cassie Walraven congratulated all members of Southern Division for their commitment this year and she was honoured to have worked with such dedicated leaders.

She named the clubs who had achieved Distinguished or higher status and congratulated them on their early achievement.

She asked that her tabled and verbal report be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

16. Area Director Reports

16.1 Area C1 Director Report

Area C1 Director, Nataly Fernandez had not tabled a report, however she was present and presented a verbal report.

She stated that she had enjoyed the role and the challenges she had faced this year. She thought it was a shame about the clubs that don't embrace Pathways and hoped she had given them some ideas about trying it out. She then discussed each club in her Area.

She asked that her verbal report be accepted.

Accepted

16.2 Area C2 Director Report

Area C2 Director, Usha Ramen was not present.

District Director Tom Bielski asked that her tabled report be accepted (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

16.3 Area C3 Director Report

Area C3 Director, Guru Gupta was absent from this meeting and did not table a report.

16.4 Area C4 Director Report

Area C4 Director, Mariana Paliu was absent from this meeting and did not table a report.

16.5 Area N21 Director Report

Area N21 Director, Eloyise Braskic stated that she has 4 key points in her report.

1. The Northern Division Final was a great success.
2. Currambiine Toastmasters will achieve at least Distinguished status, perhaps even Select Distinguished. She stated how proud she is of the team there and their success this year.
3. She thanked Northern Gourmet Toastmasters for their high support of the Area N21 Final. She could not have had such a successful Area Final without their support.
4. She was concerned that Sandgroper Toastmasters may fold but with the introduction of the Vintage Paths and after a meeting with the leaders, the Trio and herself, she is confident that this club will continue and flourish. The celebrate 50 years soon.

She asked that her tabled and verbal reports be accepted (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

16.6 Area N22 Director Report

Area N22 Director, Jo Parker, stated that she is enjoying her role and her area is healthy.

She stated that Aspire and Mount Hawthorn are great clubs which don't need much support.

Banksia Speakers are looking to hold an Open Meeting on May 2nd where they are hoping to attract more members.

Stirling Toastmasters have found a new venue and are attracting new members, however the men to women ratio is 3 to 1. They are hoping to attract more women soon. The leaders in this club are sounding very positive.

Talkabout is a lovely club and a pleasure to have in her Area.

She then thanked all the Northern Division Area Directors for their help and she believes they worked well together as a team.

She asked that her tabled and verbal reports be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

16.7 Area N23 Director Report

Area N23 Director, Marlese Fairgray had not tabled a report, however she was present and presented a verbal report.

She stated that most clubs were moving along steadily, and she expected a couple to achieve Distinguished Status.

Banyandah has lost some members and may take a while to recover.

Maylands has added a diverse pool of educational awards, and she expects them to achieve Distinguished.

She expects Young Guns to achieve Distinguished status.

Highgate has lots of new members and possibly may achieve Distinguished.

Northbridge are rolling along as they usually do and she believes they are happy.

She asked that her verbal report be accepted

Accepted

16.8 Area N24 Director Report

Area N24 Director, Juith Allen, stated that she has completed all of her official visits and she hoped the clubs would take on board her suggestions.

She was pleased with the success of the Area N24 Final.

Her worry for this Area is that some members from some clubs may not be presenting speeches from Pathways as the uptake of Pathways is not strong. Perhaps the Vintage Paths will make a difference.

She is pleased to report that Heritage Towns Toastmasters turn 35 in July, and this may be a possible time to increase their membership.

She asked that her tabled and verbal reports be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

16.9 Area S31 Director Report

Not in Attendance – (See Tabled Report)

District Director, Tom Bielski asked that the Area S31 Report as tabled be accepted.

Accepted

16.10 Area S32 Director Report

Not in Attendance – (See Tabled Report)

District Director, Tom Bielski asked that the Area S32 Report as tabled be accepted.

Accepted

16.11 Area S33 Director Report

Area S33 has no appointed Director at this stage, however, Angela Booker has been “Caretaking” the clubs. She was not in attendance, however she had tabled a report.

District Director, Tom Bielski asked that the Area S33 Report as tabled be accepted.

Accepted

16.12 Area S34 Director Report

Area S34 Director, Morrie Goodz, stated he has visited each club more than his required demand.

He sees the membership strength of hybrid clubs as the most important thing to be improved in the future.

He stated how this experience had been great and he has enjoyed it tremendously. He highly recommends it to anyone who might be thinking about it.

He asked that his tabled and verbal reports be accepted. (See Tabled Report)

Accepted

17. Other Business

17.1 District Director Address

District Director, Tom Bielski thanked every member of this team for their commitment to their role and the work they had done to support and help the District this year. It has been an honour to work with you all. He then wished all members great success as they progress in their Toastmasters journey in the future.

17.2 Program Quality Director Address

Program Quality Director Maree Pickens gave a quick overview of the 2 new Vintage Paths, Toastmasters Basic Training and The Communication Series which contains the Competent Communicator, The Entertaining Speaker and Storytelling manuals. She thinks they will be received well and hopes many members who haven't taken up Pathways in the past, may now see a way to do this,

She then spoke about keeping up the momentum for the last few months of this Toastmasters year. Several clubs can still achieve Distinguished Status and at the moment, if Area Director Reports were submitted, we would have a few Distinguished Areas.

18. Next Meeting

TBA

19. Meeting Adjourned

District Director, Tom Bielski, adjourned the meeting at 11.40am.