



District 86 Toastmasters

District Committee Meeting #2, 2025-2026

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2026, 7:00 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Presiding Officer: District Director, Bhushan Rele, DTM

Recording Secretary: Administration Manager Myrna Barthe, DTM, PDD

Parliamentarian: Iona Rodricks, DTM, PDD

7:00 p.m.	Call to Order: Logistics Manager, Parveen Johal, DTM - Reading of the TI Mission and District Mission - Review of Standing Rules - Leadership Quote Introduction of District Director: District Logistics Manager, Parveen Johal										
7:03 p.m.	Welcome – Opening Remarks: District Director Bhushan Rele, DTM Program Quality Director – Jeff Burroughs, DTM, and Club Growth Director – Bill Kirby, DTM										
7:08 p.m.	Credentials Committee Report – Credentials Committee Chair, Nicole Holas, DTM - The Credentials Chair reported that registration is now closed. Responsibilities of the position, how the quorum was established and who could vote were reviewed. <table><tr><td>Active Club Presidents and VP Eds</td><td>192</td></tr><tr><td>Quorum (1/3 club votes)</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td># of Club Ballots Issued</td><td>126</td></tr><tr><td># of District Ballots Issued</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Total Ballots Issued</td><td>152</td></tr></table> Approval of the Credentials Report as amended - Motion made by Anja Gangur, President Speed River Toastmasters #5754632 and seconded by Harold Usher, DTM President Thames Valley #3726 to approve the Credentials Report as presented. By a show of hands, 58 voted in favour and 2 opposed. Carried District Director Bhushan Rele, DTM announced that we have met quorum.	Active Club Presidents and VP Eds	192	Quorum (1/3 club votes)	64	# of Club Ballots Issued	126	# of District Ballots Issued	26	Total Ballots Issued	152
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7:20 p.m.	Review Meeting Protocols – District Parliamentarian, Iona Rodericks, DTM, PDD Explained features of Election Runner and how to vote using Election Runner										
7:22 p.m.	District Director, Bhushan Rele, DTM Adoption of Agenda Motion made by Harold Usher, DTM President Thames Valley #3726 and seconded by Area L51 Director Mary Helwig-Hall, DTM to adopt the Agenda as presented. Unanimous. Carried.										

	Approval of Minutes - Motion made by Anne Dockeray, DTM, IPDD and seconded by Cynthia Ayres, DTM, Finance Manager to approve the District Committee Meeting minutes of September 15, 2025, as presented. Unanimous. Carried. Assignment of New Clubs #28679163 Her Bold Voice, chartered 04/06/2026 - Area C 43 #28678660 CWB Group Toastmasters, chartered 11/05/2025 - Area C 44 #28679175 SteriMax Toastmasters, chartered 10/01/2025 - Area D 82 #28679079 COMET Toastmasters, chartered 01/23/2026 - Area E 04 - Motion made by Division E Director Joshua Quilatan and seconded by Area L51 Director Mary Helwig-Hall, DTM to confirm the Club Assignments as presented. By a show of hands, 64 voted in favour and 0 opposed. Carried		
	Confirmation of District Leader Appointments Division S <table border="1" data-bbox="391 768 959 806"> <tr> <td>Bijay Mainali</td> <td>Area Director – S72</td> </tr> </table> - Motion made by Harold Usher, DTM President Thames Valley #3726 and seconded by Dan Sider, President Garden City Toastmasters of St. Catharines #1102 to confirm the District Appointment as presented. By a show of hands, 69 voted in favour and 0 opposed. Carried	Bijay Mainali	Area Director – S72
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7:36 p.m.	Alignment Committee Report – Alignment Committee Chair, Cathy Hershell DTM, PDD - The Alignment Chair advised that since the District Executive Committee adoption of the proposed alignment report on February 21, 2026 there have been some club status changes which required a few updates to the report. The updated report has been available along with the updates for review with the other meeting materials for this meeting since April 18. - Charts were presented for each Division showing the current and proposed alignments. - Moved by Anne Dockeray, DTM, IPDD and seconded by Chris Moses, DTM Public Relations Manager to adopt the proposed District Alignment Report for the year 2026–2027 as presented by the Alignment Committee. Vote by election runner, 107 voted in favour and 0 opposed. Carried		
8:02 p.m.	District Leadership Committee Report – Committee Chair, Anne Dockeray, DTM, IPDD - The DLC Chair - Reviewed the Timeline - Introduced the DLC Committee members and thanked them for their service - Presented the 2026-2027 Candidates - Division C Director - Dorota Polonska - Division D Director - Disha Patel - Division E Director - Bushra Haqqi - Division L Director - Mary Helwig-Hall, DTM - Division S Director - Bijay Mainali - Division T Director - Ankur Thakur - District Director – Jeff Burroughs DTM - Program Quality Director – Bill Kirby, DTM - Club Growth Director – Chris Moses, DTM - Club Growth Director - Joshua Quilatan - Withdrawn		

	• Other District Leadership Opportunities for 2026 – 2027
8:05 p.m.	District Officer Progress Reports: Finance Manager Report - Finance Manager – Cynthia Ayres, DTM • Reviewed Balance Sheet – @ February 28, 2026 • Reviewed Profit and Loss Statement – @ February 28, 2026 • Reviewed Available Funds - @ February 28, 2026 • The District Reserve Statements have been reconciled as of February 28, 2026. • Area and Division Directors are reminded to submit their expenses on Concur including receipts with travel at .68 per kilometer.
	Audit Committee Report - 2025-2026 Audit Committee Chair Sylvette Mahoney, DTM • Reviewed Audit Committee responsibilities and presented report ➤ Finance Manager Cynthia Ayres DTM provided the following registers from Intacct to the Audit Committee. ➤ Receipts Register ➤ Check Register (For Non-Concur transactions) ➤ Bills Register (For Concur transactions) ➤ Completed review of Concur expenses and receipts for Q1/Q2 first week of March. ➤ Mid-Year Audit report submitted. ➤ There are no Recommendations to Report • Committee Members ➤ Sylvette Mahoney, DTM, Audit Committee Chair ➤ Anne Varghese, DTM, Audit Committee Member ➤ Novelette Gordon, DTM, Audit Committee Member
	Public Relations Report – Public Relations Manager, Chris Moses, DTM • Presented updates on: ➤ District 86 Website ➤ Newsletter ➤ Engaging Topics ➤ Social Media ➤ Workshops ➤ Meetup • Team Members ➤ Graphic Design Chair – Ramanujam Raghavan ➤ Meetup Chair – Cheryl Rankin ➤ Social Media Chair (Internal) – Augusto Orihuela ➤ Social Media Chair (Public) – Wayne Kuhn, DTM ➤ YouTube & Video Production Coordinator – Randy Moore, DTM ➤ AI Integration Chair – Shane Castle ➤ Webmaster & Blog Chair – Dulce Ruiz ➤ Webmaster Co-Chair – Rabia Ahmedullah ➤ Newsletter Chair – Miglena Ivanova ➤ Newsletter Audit Chair – David T. Shaw, DTM ➤ Press Release Coordinator – Jorge Meneses ➤ Searching for a District Photographer
	Club Growth Director Report – Club Growth Director, Bill Kirby, DTM

- Reviewed the results for the 2025-2026 Toastmasters @ April 21
- Reviewed CGD Goals
 - Goal 1 – Membership Payments
 - Base: 4,197 payments
 - To Date: 4144 payments received YTD (April 21)
 - Growth Targets:
 - Distinguished: 4,239 (97.8% of goal)
 - Select Distinguished: 4,323 (95.9% of goal)
 - President's Distinguished: 4,407 (94.0% of goal)
 - Smedley Distinguished: 4,533 (91.4% of goal)
 - Annual Membership Renewals
 - Club Coaches
 - Events: Open House, Special Events & Speechcraft
 - Area Director club visits
 - Marketing plans to attract guests
 - Club mentors assigned in all cases
 - Regular contact from club executive
 - Tracking through Distinguished Club Program
 - Recognize with Membership Incentives
 - Goal 2 – Club Growth
 - **Paid Clubs**
 - Base: 100 clubs (104 active clubs)
 - To Date: 95 clubs (8 clubs below 8 members)
 - **Goals per Recognition Tier:**
 - Distinguished: 101
 - Select Distinguished: 103
 - President's Distinguished: 105
 - Smedley Distinguished: 108
 - Reviewed Chartered and Prospect Clubs
 - Top Three Things to Retain Members
 - Reviewed Statistics
- **CGD Team**
 - Club Extension Chair – Tova Gaisin, DTM
 - Club Mentor Chair – Sharon Jenkins
 - Gavel Club/YLP Chair – Madan Chauhan
 - Club Coach Chair – Francoise Bowen
 - CGD Marketing Chair – Nissrine Ghannoum
 - CGD Workshops & Training Chair – Yushika Abeysiri-Gunawardhana
 - Moments of Truth Ambassador – Laurie Macfarlane
 - Club Retention Chair – Aurie Contosta
 - Open House Chair – Bijay Mainali
 - Speechcraft Chair – **TBD**
- **What can you do?**
 - Stay connected with your clubs
 - Onboarding of new members
 - ASK FOR HELP

Program Quality Director Report – Program Quality Director, Jeff Burroughs, DTM

- **Reviewed**

	➤ Dashboard Update – Goal – Smedley Distinguished ➤ Club Officer Training ▪ Club Officer Training – Round 1 • Clubs with 7 of 7 Trained - 28 • There were 84 Clubs with 4 or more Officers Trained ▪ Club Officer Training – Round 2 • Clubs with 7 of 7 Trained – 21 • There were 78 Clubs with 4 or more Officers Trained ▪ Club Officer Training – Both Rounds • Clubs with 7 of 7 Trained – 21 ➤ Distinguished Toastmasters Awarded ▪ Richard H. Lewis, DTM ▪ Bud Brown, DTM ▪ J Chris Moses, DTM ▪ Ross Cunningham, DTM ➤ Triple Crown Winners - 48 ➤ Triple Crown Incentive Winners (Level 3, 4 & 5) – 14 ➤ Mentor Path Completion – 4 ➤ Full Path Completion – 3 ➤ Distinguished Clubs (5 or 6 DCP Goals) – 11 ➤ Select Distinguished Clubs (7 or 8 DCP Goals) – 8 ➤ Presidents Distinguished Clubs (9 DCP Goals) – 7 ➤ Smedley Distinguished Clubs (10 DCP Goals) - 5
	District Director Report – District Director, Bhushan Rele, DTM • Reviewed ➤ District 86 Performance as of April 25, 2026 ➤ District 86 Performance in Region 5 ➤ Division and Area Performance ➤ Current Round Summary Area Director Visit Reports ➤ Club Elections held the first meeting in May • Moved by Bill Kirby, DTM, CGD and seconded by Dan Sider, President Garden City Toastmasters of St. Catharines #1102 to accept the District Reports. Unanimously accepted
8:35 p.m.	New Business – District Director Bhushan Rele, DTM • Info re Toastmasters International Convention, BOD Briefing, and Pathways Updates
	• District Council September 2026 Business Meeting Date Evening of Tuesday, September 15, 2026 • Motion made by IPDD Anne Dockeray, DTM and seconded by Harold Usher, DTM President Thames Valley #3726, to hold the District Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. By a show of hands, 59 in favour, 2 opposed. Carried.
	• 2026 Spring Conference – Rooted in Leadership - Conference Co-Chairs Cheryl Rankin & Anja Gangur ➤ We were reminded that there was still time to attend the Conference When: May 2/3, 2026 Where: Four Points by Sheraton, 1150 Wellington Rd, London, Ontario
8:45 p.m.	Announcements – District Director, Bhushan Rele, DTM ➤

8:50 p.m.

Meeting Recess

The District Director Bhushan Rele, DTM announced that the District Council Meeting is now in Recess until Thursday, April 30, 2026 @ 7:00 pm.

Please note that Credential protocols are still in effect. Attendance will be taken between 6:15 pm and 6:45 pm. If you arrive after 6:45 pm you will not receive a ballot.

Meeting recessed at 8:50 pm