



Minutes

District59 Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, 3rd September 2016 Athens

(Includes DECM Minutes of Sunday, 4th Sept 2016 Athens)

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

At 9:00 a.m. Markus Künkel, District Director, called the meeting to order.

B. District Mission

Ulrike Laubner, Administration Manager, read the District's Mission: "We built new clubs and support clubs to achieve excellence."

C. Certificate of Quorum

Ulrike Laubner, Administration Manager, reported that 55 District Officers were present at the opening of the meeting and therefore a quorum was reached. A majority over the total numbers of District Officers (78) is required for a quorum. This year the quorum is reached with more than 39 delegates.

D. Welcome from our hosts/Special guests

Metaxia Kritsidima, Area G5 Director and Assistant of Area G6 Director, the local hosts, welcomed all members on behalf of Apostolos Koumarinos, Area Director G6.

E. Workshop on Robert's Rules of Order

João de Mendonça, Past District Director and current D59 Parliamentarian, delivered a workshop on parliamentary procedures to train the new D59 team.

F. Approve the Agenda

Nelson Emilio, Club Growth Director, raised the motion "to approve the agenda as it was sent out and presented". The motion was seconded and carried by majority.

G. Approve the Minutes of Luxembourg

District Director, Markus Künkel, reported that the minutes of previous District Executive Council were sent in advanced. Division A Director, Uta Bunde, raised a motion "to approve the Minutes of Luxembourg as sent out" and it was seconded. The following corrections were identified as amendment to the motion:

- Marike Dijksterhuis, IPDD: to replace "TLI Berlin" by "TLI Bern". The amendment was carried by majority;

- Emilia Fossati, Division K Director: to replace the name of the club “Madeira” by “Almeida”. The amendment was carried by majority.

II. District Business

A. The District Success Plan

1. District Vision and Goals

Markus Künkel, District Director, informed that the District objective is to reach President’s Distinguished District status again. As this had been a joint endeavour, details were pointed out during the following items:

2. Program Quality Goals

Ana Isabel Ferreira, Program Quality Director, presented the Education and Training report.

In 2015-2016 D59 closed the year with 225 Clubs, due to the incorporation of Greece into area G5 and 12573 payments. The district was awarded “Distinguished Status”.

The Analysis has shown that there are 19 week clubs (<12 members/club), 32 understrength clubs (>12≤19 members/club), 6 clubs at risk to be suspended, and 30 prospective Clubs.

Therefore, strategy is to focus on:

- raise membership retention rate
- build bridges between divisions and areas that are geographically spread
- search for more corporate clubs

In order to receive “President’s Distinguished Status” D59 must fulfill the following requirements:

- more than 18.988 payments (8% net membership growth)
- More than 244 clubs (8% of net club growth)
- 60% membership retention

Detailed information was demonstrated in the presentation by Ana Isabel Ferreira.

3. Club Growth Goals

Nelson Emilio, Club Growth Director, presented the Membership and Club Growth report.

Following the goals for 2016-2017 the district has allocated a budget for club growth and will focus on the following program and actions:

Club retention program:

- train and assign club coaches for weak clubs
- support understrength clubs with mentors to regain 25 members
- raise Membership retention under responsibility of VPE and VPM
- support new clubs with 1 or 2 members in the first 6 months

The detailed budgets for District, Division and Areas were included in the presentation by Nelson Emilio.

Detailed analysis on the Division Success Plans provided by the division and a recommendation by District59 can be viewed in the presentations as well.

4. Q&A / Approve DSP

Uta Bunde, Division A Director, raised the motion to approve the District Success Plan as sent out and presented, and it was seconded.

Marika Dijksterhuis, IPDD, raised a point of information questioning if the part of the DSP that was going to be approved does not include the District Budget. Markus Künkel, DD, confirmed that it is not included, as it was a separate item on the agenda to be voted upon (*see below*).

Then, Uta's motion was carried.

B. Division Success Plans

Division Success Plans were presented according to the agenda, in a non-alphabetical order, "to see what the neighbour does", Markus Künkel explained. Changes to the presenter are marked below with an*

- Division A- France, presented by Uta Bunde
- *Division F- France, presented by Valérie Wynbelt Fraser (Area F1 Director) and Pascal Vilarem (Area F3 Director)
- Division B- Belgium, presented by Christa Filip
- Division C- Netherlands, presented by Chantale Evertsz
- Division D- Portugal, presented by Barbara Piedade
- Division K- Spain, presented by Emilia Fossati
- Division L- Portugal, presented by Norberto Amaral
- *Division H- Spain, presented by Eric David (Area H2 Director)
- Division M- Portugal, presented by Gustavo Amaro
- Division E- Switzerland, presented by Angela Saxby Robbins
- Division I- Switzerland, presented by Nina Carrasco
- Division J- Switzerland, presented by Pavel Savitch
- Division G- Italy, presented by Francesca Gammicchia

Gustavo Amaro, Division M Director, moved to approve the Division Reports as presented and it was seconded. The motion was carried by majority.

C. District Budget

Zukhra Abdumalikova, Finance Manager, presented the Draft of the District Budget.

Zabdiel Dominguez, Area I2 Director, raised a point of Information on how cost of joint events of different areas could be reimbursed. Zukhra Abdumalikova, Finance Manager, replied that the total amount should be divided between areas and each area must submit its part using the same receipt. Each area needs to add the name of the event in the form. The same receipt of a joint event can be submitted by each Area Director with clear description, i.e. "Joint COT Area 1, 2 ,3, 4" and mark own area.

Emilia Fossati, Division K Director, raised a point of information about the possibility to change the bank account in every submission. Zukhra Abdumalikova, Finance Manager, answered that this will be checked and informed later.

Ines Nijman, Area C8 Director, moved to approve the Budget as presented and it was seconded. The motion was carried.

D. Marketing & PR Goals

Francesco Fedele, Public Relations Manager, presented the Marketing and PR goals.

Aries Marques, Area J1 Director, moved to accept the PR report and the motion was seconded. The motion was carried.

III. New Business

A. Disciplinary Hearing

Following to policy and protocol 3.0, a disciplinary hearing was held by reading and explaining, where necessary, the corresponding proceedings. According to the protocol 3.0 of the governing documents, the charged member, MT, had been informed on the procedure and the possible disciplinary action by regular mail plus email in due time before the DECM. Markus Künkel, District Director, informed that the member had chosen not to be present, nor did he answer to the skype invitation made by the presenter. He did not reply within the timeframe defined in the protocol, i.e., 48 hours before the DECM.

Markus Künkel, District Director, read out the hearing procedure and made it clear that all information was strictly confidential and that this was not a court of law proceeding. Marike Dijksterhuis, Immediate Past District Director, then read the testimonials. As the charged member was not present, neither physically nor via telecommunication, nor had he appointed a representative before (nor after) the 48 hours limit in advance of the DECM.

The committee presented the following motion, which was seconded:

MOTION: *«Following protocol 3.3, the charged member shall:*

a. Receive public written censure by the committee

- b. *Be suspended from participation in district events for 18 months (as of today, Sept. 3, 2016)*
- c. *suspended from eligibility to be elected or appointed to district office for 18 months (as of today, Sept. 3, 2016)*
- d. *Furthermore, we the DEC of D59 request that the Board of Directors conduct a disciplinary hearing to consider removing the individual from good standing with Toastmasters International »*

The following points of information were raised

- by Alexandra Dimian, Area A3 Director: *“Will there be a possibility that the member can present his opinion in Madrid?”* Answer by Markus Künkel, DD: His information came not within the timeframe according to the protocol, meaning 48 hours before the DECM;
- by Pascal Vilarem, Area F3 Director: *“Is there any physical evidence to support the decision to be made now?”* Answer: There are testimonials from members. For reason of confidentiality, the District Director and Immediate Past District Director were not authorized by the complaining members to bring personal information, such as names into this meeting, but only a summary of all information, i. e. emails, websites and facebook posts serving as references in this case.
- by Eric David, Area H2 Director: *“Why did it take so long to take an action?”* Answer: It is impossible to respond to actions that happened in the past. D59 is not a legal entity and is not allowed to take any legal action, i.e. bringing this case to a court. D59’s actions are limited and can only submit this case to TI Headquarters. They are the only entity that can expel a member or remove a club;
- by Alexandra Dimian, Area A3 Director: *“Why did you choose to hear only one side of this case?”* Answer: The member has decided not to answer in time and missed his chance to talk to be heard in this meeting;
- by Em Ajogbe, Area B1 Director: *“Why do you expect us to decide on anything without showing any evidence?”* Answer: The information on the case was sent out beforehand;
- by Cristina Juesas, Area H4 Director: *“How many people have complained?”* Answer: 8;
- by Pavel Savitch, Division J Director: *“What do you mean with ‘the information is public’?”* Answer: It was made public by the charged member himself on the Internet, Toastmasters’ pages and on Facebook;
- by Ricardo Fonseca, Area M2 Director: *“Will he ever get the chance to be heard?”* Answer: Yes, he can be heard at the next level, if he follows the procedure.

Chantale Evertsz, Division C Director, moved to close the debate. It was seconded. A quorum of 2/3 was needed to carry this motion. Results: In favour: 51; Abstentions: 2; Against: 2. The motion was carried.

Results of the main motion:

This motion required 2/3 of the assembly in favour to be carried, i.e., 37 votes.

Results: In favour: 38; Abstentions: 13; Against: 8. The motion was carried.

Nelson Emilio, Club Growth Director, moved the motion to make a break to have lunch and it was seconded. The motion was carried.

B. Contest Rules for Fall 2016

Ana Isabel Ferreira, Program Quality Director, presented the rules according to the rulebook and last D59 decisions on the number of speeches required to participate in a contest. A doubt on interpretation of last Dec's on this subject was discussed and it was clarified by Ana Isabel that the rule is as follows:

For the International Contest (English or other language) it requires six speeches to be a contestant. For all other contests, like Table Topics, Humorous, Evaluations or Tall Tales this requirement is not mandatory.

Uta Bunde, Division A Director, raised a point of information on when the decision will be made for the languages in Winterthur? Ana Isabel's answer: that decision will probably be made at the DECM in Madrid. Markus Künkel added, that this was necessary according to the rules before the start of the respective contest season.

C. Nomination Committee

Marike Dijksterhuis, IPDD, presented the District Leadership Committee for the term 2017-2018 as chair of this committee. Due to the reformation process, next year we will have one District Director and three persons for both PQD and CGD. The new Districts will be (provisional designation till TMI assigns a District number):

- A. Portugal, Spain and Andorra;
- B. France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands;
- C. Italy, Switzerland, Greece and Austria.

The schedule for this process was presented. Accordingly, interviews for nominations to the incoming Executive Committee will start on 1st January 2017. Marike Dijksterhuis asked all Division Directors to assign a member to integrate him/her into her committee. Marike Dijksterhuis informed that Austria, which belongs currently to District 95, will be invited by her to join her committee.

D. Application of extraordinary budget

Markus Künkel, District Director, presented the motion to apply for an extraordinary budget for marketing and travel from TMI. This additional money will be needed to cover additional expenses for the current term with a large number of weak and understrength

cub, for the transitional term, when 3 PQD and 3CGD will be prepared for setting up new districts for the term 2018-2019. Stretched over four fractions, this extra money should ensure that reformation could be followed through as planned and that that trained and skilled committee members would be on future boards.

Ute Bunde, Division A Director, moved to accept the application for an extraordinary budget, and this was seconded. The motion was carried.

E. Others

- Conference Fall 2017 – Proposal/Intentions

Markus Künkel, District Director, informed that Districts would like to receive proposals for next Conferences in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 (*a joint conference with D95*). Francesca Gammicchia, Division G Director, showed her intention to make a proposal for District Conference on the Fall 2017 in Rome or Florence. She will present the proposal within the next months.

- New Fees Increase

Robert Johnstone, Area A5 Director, raised a point of information on the subject of CEO salary. Markus Künkel, District Director, informed that a special session will be held on Sunday to clarify this subject.

- Schedule next DECM

Uta Bunde, Division A Director, raised the following point of information if the DECM can take place on a Sunday. Marike Dijksterhuis, IPDD, answered: The DECM cannot take place on Sunday due to decisions that have to be made before the DCM and the start of the contests.

IV. Adjournment

Markus Künkel, District Director, adjourned the meeting until 11th November 2016 in Madrid. The meeting was adjourned at 13.25 pm.

Annex:

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All presentations are accessible via:

<http://www.district59.org/officer-resources/district-executive-committee/>

Minutes District59

Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, 4th September 2016 Athens

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

At 12:10 a.m. Markus Künkel, District Director, called an extraordinary meeting to order with just one subject in the agenda: The Hearing decision. He explained that an issue on the number of people voting has arisen. There were more votes counted than people present in the meeting and this could represent a fairness issue. Therefore, a new voting should be held allowing this decision to be transparent and fair to all DECM members.

B. Certificate of Quorum

Ulrike Laubner, Administration Manager, reported that 58 District Officers were present in the meeting by counting the ballots and checking people in the room. Since a majority of the total number of District Officers (78) represents a quorum, this meeting fulfilled the criteria.

C. Approve the Agenda

Nelson Emilio, Club Growth Director, move *“to approve the agenda as it was defined by District Director verbally”*. The motion was second and was carried by majority.

D. Approve the Agenda

The Board raised a motion to add this voting to the minutes of the DECM. The motion was carried.

II. District Business

A. Disciplinary Hearing

Markus Künkel, District Director, explained that no discussion was needed, only a new voting. The motion was displayed again on the screen.

MOTION: *«Following protocol 3.3, the charged member shall:*

- a. Receive public written censure by the committee*
- b. Be suspended from participation in district events for 18 months (as of today, Sept. 3, 2016)*
- c. suspended from eligibility to be elected or appointed to district office for 18 months (as of today, Sept. 3, 2016)*
- d. Furthermore, we the DEC of D59 request that the Board of Directors conduct a disciplinary hearing to consider removing the individual from good standing with Toastmasters International »*

This motion required 2/3 of the voting delegates in favour to be carried, which were 39 votes. Results: In favour: 38, abstentions 11, votes against 9. The main motion was not carried.

III. Adjournment

Markus Künkel, District Director, invited everybody for the 11th November, 2016 in Madrid. The meeting was adjourned at 13.25 pm.