



DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT

2nd April 2020

District Mission: "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence"

District 72 Focus for 2019/20: "To achieve excellence by empowering members and clubs with the support, education and tools needed to promote and strengthen membership and club quality, and to complete the transition to Pathways."

This year has been a year of changes and challenges.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to impact Toastmasters around the District and around the world. The Clubs and District are facing a number of challenges at the moment.

The coronavirus virus is now impacting all aspects of our life. This can be unsettling for all of us. We have relied on each other for our growth, support and camaraderie in our in-person meetings. With clubs now being able to meet, many clubs are now meeting online. Online meetings will give us this opportunity to continue our growth and support. Online meetings also give us the chance to chat and keep in touch with each other and become more creative as we engage online together. It is also a great chance for members to join in with other clubs' meetings. This is a great opportunity to help the struggling clubs in our District by zooming into their meetings and supporting them.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues has also resulted in the cancellation of two Division Conferences and the District 72 Conference that was to be held in Christchurch in May. We will be taking up the challenge and running online contests, for all four contests, for both the two Division Contests and the District 72 Conference.

Due to the cancellation of the District 72 Conference we will be holding a virtual District Council Meeting, including the election of the Senior Leadership Team.

It was welcome news to our members that Toastmasters International have extended submission date for the Leadership Awards for ALS and DTM to 30 June 2021. Any work any work completed, such as a club sponsor/mentor role, now through the end of next program year can be used as credit toward the requirements for either of these two awards.

We have had four clubs charter this year, with several other clubs in various stages working towards their eventual charter. Sadly, we have had several clubs close this year, and several others who are struggling and are on the verge of closure.

Toastmasters International has extended the April renewals due date to April 30, 2020, still allowing members to access Basecamp and Club Officers to access Club Central until the 30th April. Some clubs have taken advantage of this and are waiting to pay their dues. I encourage these clubs to pay their dues as soon as they can. This will allow the District to see how clubs are progressing and if any of the clubs in the District need additional support.

Thank you to the Division Directors along with their Area Directors who have worked hard this year providing workshops, educationals, along with the Contests and Conferences. It is good seeing the enthusiasm that each District Leader has brought to each meeting that we have had and more importantly into their role.

Thanks also goes to my fellow Top Table members Steve, Basil, Kendall, Rob and Philip whom I find are of great support. Thank you must also go to the other senior District Officers for their incredible amount of hard work they have put in throughout the year. Finally, thank you to all those Toastmaster members who continue to put in extra time over and above the call of duty. Our organisation relies on members volunteering their spare time to help Toastmasters grow. You are the ones who make our Toastmasters Clubs what they are today. Thank you.

Rob Woolley, our Administration Manager, resigned as at 1st April 2020 and I would like to thank him for all the work that he has done this year.

The District appreciates the work and effort that the members are putting in under these unsettling times. The District is here to support our members and our clubs.

Diane Jsherwood

District 72 Director

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