



District Director District 72 Report

Sarah Bate, DTM – 5 October 2017

August - District Leader Training and International Convention

The District quintet attended District Leader Training and the Toastmasters International Annual Convention 2017 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from August 20th to August 26th.

On Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd we had two full days of training which we received partly in our Regional Leaders Groupings and partly with our District Director, Programme Quality Director and Club Growth Director counterparts from other Districts. It was great to meet other District Officers and share ideas on attracting new members, growing new clubs, training District and Club Officers and managing the administrative workload.

Over Sunday the 20th and Wednesday the 21st we interviewed all of the candidates for the position of 2nd Vice President of Toastmasters International, and for the seven International Director positions (being ID for Regions 1,3,5,7,9,11 and 13). Each interview was 15 minutes long and we asked a range of questions, which assisted us in deciding how to cast District 72's votes. From Wednesday the 23rd to Saturday the 26th the Quintet attended the International Convention. This included the sessions that the District 72 Quintet are required to attend as per DP 10 of the District Procedures.

September – Contests

This last month has been another busy one for the District. As club humorous and table topic contests were completed, we moved on to Area contests, and this last weekend the first round of Division Conferences have been held, with Divisions A, B and C putting on successful and enjoyable events. The Quintet look forward to visiting the remaining Division Conferences. Congratulations to all contest participants and those going on to represent their Division at the District Conference in November.

Pathways

It is finally our Region's turn for the Toastmasters Pathways roll-out. Throughout September Guides were commencing their online training, receiving their club-kits and attending an online seminar. During October and November they will be making contact with clubs and presenting the new educational programme at club visits. As long as 80% of our clubs are trained and ready to go by 7th December, Pathways will become available in our District, and Toastmasters will be able to log into BaseCamp and get started on their first path. I believe Toastmasters International plans to complete the roll-out globally by 30th June 2018. This means that Toastmasters who wish to complete their DTM under the existing education programme have two years from that date to achieve their DTM; that is until June 2020. If this changes, we will be sure to provide a timely update. The Pathways Guides are ably supported by Chief Ambassador Dave Young, Programme Quality Directors Toni Sharp and Celina Templeman. A word about Ambassadors. District 72 does not have any Pathways Ambassadors. When Toastmasters International contacted Dave Young (as Chief Ambassador) and Sarah (as PQD in the 2016-2017 Toastmasters year) to advise that Pathways was to roll-out during 2017, it was advised that Revitalised Education Programme Ambassadors would be replaced with Pathways Guides. We queried this and had it confirmed at that stage that we would no longer need them so Dave contacted all the Toastmasters who had been appointed as REP Ambassadors and explained the situation, asking if they would like to become Pathways Guides. Those that were interested transferred to the new role. However, in December 2016 / January 2017 Toastmasters International reintroduced Pathways Ambassadors. As the District already had a shortage of Guides, Dave and Sarah, in consultation with TI, decided that we should go ahead and roll-out Pathways without Ambassadors. This means that in District 72 the Pathways Guide role encompasses the Guide role and the Ambassador role.

Reformation

As the District heads towards Reformation the following committees have been busy; the Realignment Committee, the District Procedures Committee and the Future Conferences Committee. It is planned that the proposed District Realignment Report will be available on the District website as of the 9th of October. This document was drafted at the District Administration Weekend in July, refined during August and has been available to the District to comment on from 1 September to 21 September. Currently, comments are being compiled and the Realignment Committee will review a compilation of all the comments received and an updated report. Pending further amendments, the proposal to be presented to the District Executive Council on Friday 9th November and to the District Council on Saturday 10th November will be placed on the website for your reading as of 9th October. While all this has been happening, the District Procedures Committee have been working on redrafting the existing District Procedures and Administration Procedures so that they are fit for purpose for continuing District 72 and new District 112. As a number of these procedures depend on the realignment it is most likely that these will be presented at the May 2018 District Executive and District Councils. The Future Conferences Committee has been working on what future District Conferences will look like, as Toastmasters International has directed that Districts will no longer hold November Conferences, and all District level contests must be held in May of the Toastmasters year. These proposed amendments will be placed into the proposed District Procedures and Administrative Procedures for the District's consideration.

Club Charter Celebrations

As you can see, there is a lot of administrative tasks involved in running a District, particularly one that is implementing Pathways and preparing for Reformation. However, I have managed to get out and about and actually attend Toastmasters meetings. On Thursday the 28th I was honoured to attend a festive dinner to celebrate the chartering of Wadestown Toastmasters Club in Wellington and present members with their Charter Certificates. On October 2nd I was again honoured to attend a hui to celebrate the chartering of Te Puni Kokero Toastmasters Club in Wellington. Celebratory charter events are also planned for Newtown Toastmasters and for our newest club Moo Talk in Auckland – a corporate club supported by Fonterra.

I wish you all the best with your continuing Toastmasters journey and look forward to meeting many of you at Division Conferences in October and the District Conference in November in Gisborne.

Sarah Bate, DTM
District Director 2017-2018
director@toastmasters.org.nz