



Division H Director Report

7 April 2021

I wish to acknowledge Erin Daldry (unofficial Area Director), for stepping in on an already busy schedule, with the support, time and assistance with Area H1, submitting an excellent club visit report and organising the area contest. I have received offers of assistance from other experienced Toastmasters. All very much appreciated!

Since stepping into the role, I have been working closely with Judy Love (Division G Director), Mary Clarke (Division J Director). I have found this particularly beneficial with the realignment report proposal of two divisions and the long contest season we have had and the support this brings.

Key Division Goals:

- Ensuring all clubs are supported and guided with or without an Area Director appointed.
- Have well run and organized contests that now are online from area level and above.
- Deliver well organised division contests in April with a particular focus on providing newer Toastmasters the opportunity to take a lead role to encourage them to explore Toastmasters outside of their own club/area. This will be online via Zoom and the project manager, Mike McKee, will start holding regular planning meetings.
- We will leverage the training and workshops provided by the District Training Team and encourage our members to take part in these where possible and build on the topics covered where appropriate. These workshops are being presented online and presented from a district level.

Key successes so far:

- Planning for the International and Table Topics Division H Contests (17 April 2021) is going well. An event like this is very much a team effort and big thank you to Mike McKee (Organiser), Kath Cherrie, Norbert Lee (Organising Committee). The focus is on embracing this format and we have chosen the theme to fit a focus around members achieving going forward.
- Had regular team meetings since January via Zoom to discuss progress on various tasks that are a work-on for the remainder of the Toastmasters year including Club Officer Training, Division H Contests preparations.
- It was good to see how clubs worked well together to source judges and officials from across the Division. There was an increase of new members taking on roles in the online environment. I will encourage more members to give it a go, take advantage of the workshops that are planned to get more comfortable with this platform with it being a continuing platform in near future.
- I have found with area contests and above online, members willing to give their time was much appreciated even from across the District. Talking to people we don't normally talk to I think has been good. This is also a challenge that I will talk about below.

Challenges so far:

- The contest season has felt longer than usual this time; some weeks there wasn't many free evenings/Saturdays with all the briefings. It is something that will need to be a watched going forward to manage the time of members willing to help. A bigger pool of people is needed to give everyone a break and enjoy the contests.
- Encouraging more members to enter speech contests and get the opportunities and learnings that come from it.
- After the second round of Club Officer Training was completed, getting clubs to back up and achieve minimum number of attendees at Club Officer Training under the Distinguished Club Program was a challenge. Looking across the Division, I did notice several clubs achieved minimum number in round 1 but not round 2 and some clubs did not attend.
Congratulations to the following clubs achieved minimum four club officers attending both rounds: Statistically Speaking, Peninsula Presenters, Turbine Talkers, Cook Strait, Newtown.
A big shout out to NZ Transport Agency (NZTA), OUTspoken clubs achieving 7/7 in both rounds!!
- After the April round of membership dues, we did have three clubs that have not renewed: Public Service (has dissolved and sent through paperwork), TradeMe (indicated that are not renewing) and Willis Quarter (is now suspended club). There was a drop in membership for several clubs or no change from the base numbers. Overall membership base is down. This will need to be a focus for Division for the remainder of the Toastmasters year and beyond to help clubs retain members (club experience) and gain new membership.

20 +	13 - 19	12 or fewer
High Noon Bankers *LINZ Toastmasters *not in good standing	Newtown Statistically Speaking Toast NOW Cook Strait Island Bay Peninsula Presenters Mid City Turbine Talkers	*NZX Wordstock Outspoken NZTA

- With the reduction of clubs in Division H, I have worked with Judy Love (Division G Director) on realignment of divisions and areas. There was a consultation session and the final proposal with changes is now on Toastmasters NZ website under the Members Only section. If you are not sure of changes, I do encourage you to read this. These are not confirmed at this stage and the final vote will be at the District Council Meeting on 15 April 2021.

The proposed realignment will create a single, stronger division (no change in some areas), which is the main reason for the change.

Division H Director 2020-2021

Glen Pearce