



# Division E Director Report

06/6/2022

District 72's goal is to empower members to be better speakers and leaders by creating opportunities and striving for excellence. I've had the privilege to see excellence in action during the speech contests in the last few months.

## CONTESTS

On April 2nd, I was the Convener for the Division E conference, and we ran all four contests. It was great to see District officers helping each other fill the roles for contests!

This event was closely followed by the Division G Contest, where I helped out as Chief Judge. Then, in June, I was privileged to be the Convener of the International Speech Contest for Division 72 on May 14th. All contestants showed a high standard of public speaking, and this is something we can all be proud of in Division 72.

## MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately, Division E haemorrhaged members, especially in the first four months of the year, as you can see below.



This loss was mainly due to Covid because many clubs went online. It is interesting to note that in the E1 Area, the only club that grew strongly was the one that continued with face-to-face meetings throughout.

## PATHWAYS

The uptake of Pathways is still not as strong as it could be. To boost the general motivation for Pathways, I offered a workshop during the District Conference. In this workshop I showed some interesting data that is very revealing. I have extrapolated the data for Division E:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| General uptake of Pathways      | 87% |
| Club Officer uptake of Pathways | 94% |
| New member uptake of Pathways   | 24% |

These stats are similar for the whole of District 72.

You can see quite clearly that there is a disconnect between club officers and new members and that their knowledge and experience of Pathways aren't passed on.

When I first started as a Division Director, my idea was to install Pathway Coaches in clubs. However - with falling membership numbers - it has become difficult to fill crucial Club Officer roles, let alone find people for additional roles.

For the future, my suggestion is to upskill VP Ed officers so that they can help people into Pathways. We should also encourage clubs to use mentors for further motivation. A crucial factor towards success would be to gather Pathways resources from various regions and districts, which could equip mentors and VP Eds to guide members on their Pathways journey.

Mary Jaksch

**Division E Director 2021-2022**