

**Toastmasters International  
District 72 Executive Committee Meeting  
The Angus Inn, Lower Hutt  
And Online on Zoom**

**Friday 12 May 2023, 1.30 PM**

**See Appendix 1 for members present**

1	<p><b>Call to order and welcome</b> District Director (DD) Kathryn Duncan called the meeting to order at 1.30 pm and welcomed all present. She explained the speaking and on-line voting processes. A practice vote was held using the online voting platform.</p>
2	<p><b>Notice of Online Meeting</b> Administration Manager (AM) Esther Haines read the notice of the online meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>District Mission Statement and Core Values</b> Program Quality Director (PQD) Glen Pearce read the District Mission Statement and Core Values.</p>
4	<p><b>Speaking Rights</b> DD Kathryn Duncan stated that only District Officers have speaking and voting rights. District Officers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all Area Directors (AD)</li> <li>all Division Directors (Div. Dir.)</li> <li>District Administration Manager (AM) Esther Haines</li> <li>District Finance Manager (FM) Sheryl Ryan</li> <li>Public Relations Manager (PRM) Kath Cherrie</li> <li>Club Growth Director (CGD) Mary Jaksch</li> <li>Programme Quality Director (PQD) Glen Pearce</li> <li>Immediate Past District Director (IPDD) David O'Brien</li> <li>District Director Kathryn Duncan</li> </ul> <p>Under Toastmasters International (TI) Policy DD Kathryn Duncan extended speaking rights to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Templeman, District Parliamentarian</li> <li>Marie Fox, District Trainer</li> <li>Harry Fox, District Technical Support</li> <li>Pauline Cook, Lower Hutt Conference Chair</li> <li>Philip Smith, Lower Hutt Conference Treasurer</li> </ul> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan thanked Kath Cherrie in her dual roles of PRM and District Technical Support for this meeting.</p>

	<p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked that those wishing to speak raise their hand virtually and wait to be acknowledged. She reminded speakers to clearly state their name and role before speaking and to speak clearly so that Administration Manager Esther Haines and DD Kathryn Duncan can hear you.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan reminded participants that the meeting is being recorded. The recording will not be shared and will only be used for Minutes preparation.</p>
5	<p><b>Confirmation of Quorum</b>  District Parliamentarian (DP) David Templeman noted this is a District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting. A quorum for a DEC meeting is the majority of executive members. The executive currently has 7 Senior Officers, 5 Division Directors and 17 Area Directors making a total of 29 members. The quorum is 15 members.  DP David Templeman confirmed there were 19 Executive members present in person and 2 online making a total of 21 and we do have a quorum.</p> <p>Question from Area J2 Director Laura Bruce: Are ordinary members entitled to attend the meeting?  Response from DD Kathryn Duncan: The DEC meeting? No. Only District Officers.</p>
6	<p><b>Apologies</b>  All apologies must be entered in the electronic apologies book.</p> <p><b>AM Esther Haines moved that the apologies per the electronic apologies book be accepted.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Div D Dir Celina Templeman</b></p> <p><b>Motion: That the apologies as per the electronic apologies book be accepted.</b>  Voting via the electronic platform:  Yes: 20  No: 0  Abstain: 0  <b>The 'Ayes' have it. The motion is carried.</b></p>
7	<p><b>Changes to and confirmation of Agenda and Additional Items</b>  DD Kathryn Duncan asked if there were any items that needed to be added to the agenda.  DD Kathryn Duncan announced that Item 13.3 would now be the financial update for the Lower Hutt District Conference.</p>
8	<p><b>Minutes of the District 72 District Executive Committee Meeting held on 24 February 2023</b>  The minutes of the 24 February 2023 District Executive Committee online meeting have been circulated. AM Esther Haines said that she had received a correction of a minor nature which would form part of the official record of that meeting.</p>

	<p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked for objections to the minutes being adopted.</p> <p><b>There were no objections so the minutes of the District 72 Executive Committee Meeting held on 24 Februar3 2022 were adopted.</b></p>
9	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes 24 February 2023</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>
10	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked AM Esther Haines to bring any items of correspondence concerning issues that need to be addressed by the District Executive.</p> <p>AM Esther Haines reported that she had received two items of correspondence concerning issues to be addressed by the District Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An email from Erin Daldry (Capital Chatterers, Phoenix) concerning The Notice of Motion to add District Administrative Procedure A.6 to the District 72 Procedures, asking members of the District Executive to oppose the motion.</li> <li>2. An email from Jonathan Lam, District Growth and Support Director at Toastmasters International, also concerning this motion, confirming that there is nothing wrong with the motion and that it is consistent with Toastmasters Policy and Protocol.</li> </ol>
11	<p><b>Urgent Business</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Confirmation of District Officer Resignations:</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan reported that she has received one resignation from a District Officer since the District Executive Committee meeting held on 24 February 2023: Area C3 Director Gorden Goodall.</p> <p><b>Motion: that Gorden Goodall’s resignation be accepted.</b></p> <p><b>Moved: Kayleen Gilder, Division C Director</b>  <b>Seconded: Glenys Forsyth, Area C4 Director</b></p> <p><b>Motion: that Gorden Goodall’s resignation be accepted.</b></p> <p>Voting via the electronic platform:  Yes: 20  No: 0  Abstain: 0</p> <p><b>The ‘Ayes’ have it. The motion is carried.</b></p> <p><b>11.2 Confirmation of Officer Appointments:</b></p> <p>There have been no appointments made.</p> <p><b>11.3 Confirmation of New Clubs into Areas</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan reported that, unfortunately, no new clubs have chartered to date.</p>

12	<p><b>Conference Report</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked PQD Glen Pearce to present the report for the Lower Hutt District Conference 2023.</p> <p>PQD Glen Pearce asked Conference Chair Pauline Cook to present her report.</p> <p>Conference Chair Pauline Cook:</p> <p>An amazing group of creative Toastmasters came together as a team working to plan this conference. This is the first hybrid conference, which has added another element to planning.</p> <p>The conference starts today, here, in this hotel.</p> <p>The number of Toastmasters registered has surpassed our expectations. We planned for 80. Today, 130 have registered. The maximum at any one time is 120. We are very pleased that Toastmasters are saying they want an in-person conference. Fifteen people are registered for the hybrid option.</p> <p>Upper Hutt Toastmasters are running the Friday night entertainment, which will be a quiz and karaoke (not together).</p> <p>The highlight of the conference is the contests: Table Topics, Evaluation, Humorous and International.</p> <p>Also included is the District Council Meeting.</p> <p>This weekend will be filled with interesting and stimulating keynote speakers, workshops, and presentations. It will be capped with personal development activities, strategies, and new ideas to enrich the Toastmasters experience.</p> <p>We hope that all who attend will have an energising weekend and lots of fun, laughter and learning.</p> <p><b>On behalf of the Lower Hutt Conference team, PQD Glen Pearce moved that the Lower Hutt Conference 2023 report be received.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Area G2 Director Siân Farr</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan opened the report for discussion.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan thanked Pauline and her team for all the hard work, which is showing already. It is fantastic to have so many people back in the room.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan:</p> <p>If there is no objection, the Lower Hutt Conference 2023 report will be received.</p> <p>Since there is no objection, the motion is adopted.</p>
13	<p><b>Financial Reports</b></p> <p><b>13.1 District Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked District Finance Manager Sheryl Ryan to present the Audited District Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022.</p>

FM Sheryl Ryan explained that Total Revenue to 31 December 2022 is under budget and below the 31 December 2021 figure. Total expenditure is under budget and below the 31 December 2021 figure. Net income is \$7,106 greater than budget, due to expenditure being \$11,379 under budget. The largest underspend is on Travel due to the November District Officer Training being held in hybrid format. Club Growth is also underspent. This is a timing issue.

**FM Sheryl Ryan moved that the Audited District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 be received.**

**Seconded: Area J5 Director Karen Lynley**

DD Kathryn Duncan opened the Audited District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 December 2022 for discussion.

Area J2 Director Laura Bruce clarified that the report was for the six months from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 and was published on the website on 27 April 2023.

FM Sheryl Ryan commented that there had been challenges getting the figures.

Div D Dir Celina Templeman congratulated FM Shery Ryan on her work.

There was no further discussion.

**FM Sheryl Ryan moved that the Audited District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 be adopted.**

**Seconded: Div C Dir Kayleen Gilder**

DD Kathryn Duncan:

If there is no objection, the Audited District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 be adopted.

**Since there is no objection, the report is adopted.**

### **13.2 District Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023**

DD Kathryn Duncan asked District Finance Manager Sheryl Ryan to present the District Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023.

FM Sheryl Ryan explained that Travel and Club Growth were still underspent so Total Expenditure was \$15, 992. Total Income was \$4,857 under budget so net income was \$11,135 over budget. Although not showing in figures to 28 February, Club Growth expenditure has caught up as the new Guest Booklets for clubs have been printed.

**FM Sheryl Ryan moved that the District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023 be received.**

**Seconded: Area J5 Director Karen Lynley**

DD Kathryn Duncan opened the District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023 for discussion.

Area J5 Director Karen Lynley asked about the underspend on Education & Training. FM Sheryl Ryan explained that would be caught up due to District Officer Training at the May Conference.

PQD Glen Pearce confirmed that and pointed out there would also be spending on District Officer Training at the end of June for the 2023-24 Toastmasters year.

Area J2 Director Laura Bruce asked: 'Given the chronic underspend this year on travel would it be possible to reconsider the draconian limitations on mileage allowance for Area Directors?'

DD Kathryn Duncan responded that the District would like to increase the mileage allowance but it is set by Toastmasters International policy not by the District.

District Parliamentarian David Templeman asked what was being done about the massive underspend on Club Growth.

CGD Mary Jaksch responded:

One of the two really important things in terms of Club Growth is the new Visitor Booklet. There were two reasons for producing a new Visitor Booklet. One is that the images inside the old one were of Toastmasters who are no longer available or of guests who have never been asked if they wanted to be in a publication. That has led to some problems, especially with the website. We have had to redo the website because of that problem. The new Visitor Booklet alleviates that. Also, the new Visitor Booklet brings us more into the present, into the now, which is really important because we need to show that we are today's Toastmasters, not yesterday's Toastmasters. We are relevant today. This takes a long time to create. Luckily, I have the design skills, and also the publication skills, to know how to do this. So, I have led this brochure. To do this well you need a long lead time. You can't just go out and buy it, just spend \$4000. It has to have value and buy-in. A lot of people have seen the new Visitor Booklet and have commented on it. Changes have been made, both in the content and the way it is presented. That is why this spend was a bit lower in the first part of the year.

The other thing we have done is the mini-flyers, that are like cards. Many of your clubs are already using them. Now, that has been put together by the Club Growth Committee. When you are working with people who are volunteers, you can't make them do it, force them to work to a deadline. It takes time to get everything together. We have caught up with the spend. We have got what we need to move forward. My idea for this year was to do things that we could use not just this year, or next year, but the one after and the one after.

This is why the spend was a little lower in the first half of the year and we are all caught up.

There was no further discussion.

**FM Sheryl Ryan moved that the District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023 be accepted.**

**Seconded: Area J5 Director Karen Lynley**

DD Kathryn Duncan:

If there is no objection, the District Financial Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023 will be accepted.

**Since there is no objection, the report is accepted.**

### **13.3 Financial Update for the Lower Hutt District Conference**

DD Kathryn Duncan asked Conference Treasurer Philip Smith to present a financial update for the District Conference.

Conference Treasurer Philip Smith pointed out that most of the costs happen late in the piece and the costs for the Conference have not yet come in. The Conference has received \$19,000 in registration income. We have spent \$2,119 on variable expenses, which is a little more than we forecast, which was \$1700. That is because registration numbers were a bit higher than expected so we needed more bags, labels, and things like that. Fixed expenses, such as room hire, have not yet been paid, but are within forecast. We have 130 people registered in-person and 15 people registered online. Of the in-person registrations, 88 are for the full conference, 26 are for part of the conference and the balance are partners coming for, for example, the dine-and-dance. At this point, we are forecasting to make a small surplus for the conference.

**Conference Treasurer Philip Smith moved that the Lower Hutt Conference May 2023 Financial Progress Report be received.**

**Seconded: Area J2 Director Laura Bruce**

Area J5 Director Karen Lynley, a member of the Conference Team, commented that it was amazing to see registration numbers so high, after so many meetings when it looked as though the conference would make a loss.

PQD Glen Pearce congratulated the team on the job they had done making the conference a success.

District Parliamentarian David Templeman asked if any profit from the 2023 Conference could be kept as seed money for the next conference. Philip Smith said he and FM Sheryl Ryan could work on that.

	<p>There was no further discussion and DD Kathryn Duncan thanked Philip Smith for his report.</p>
14	<p><b>District Audit Committee Report</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan presented the District Audit Report on behalf of Joy Ackrill, the District Audit Committee Chair.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan read the report.</p> <p>Our Audit Committee this year is Joy Ackrill, Diane Stempa and Tania Sales.</p> <p><b>District 72 Audit Committee Report – March 2023</b></p> <p>The District Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and substantiating whether District funds have been spent in accordance with the mission and governing documents of Toastmasters. The audit for the 6 months ended 31 December 2022 was completed in March 2023. The committee verified that all expense claims were appropriately approved with supporting documentation and is satisfied there was no unauthorised use of funds. The District financial reports accurately reflect District income and expenses. Toastmasters WHQ Audit Committee Guidelines have been fully complied with for the 6 months to 31 December 2022. An audit was not completed in line with NZ auditing standards as there is no requirement to do so.</p> <p>That was from Joy Ackrill DTM.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked for someone to move that the District Audit Committee Report be received.</p> <p><b>Moved: Area E6 Director Reuben Painter</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan opened the District Audit Committee Report for discussion.</p> <p>There was no discussion.</p>
15	<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>15.1 District Realignment Committee Report</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked PQD Glen Pearce to provide a verbal report on the progress of the District Realignment Committee.</p> <p>The District Realignment Report was uploaded to the website on 19 April 2023. The principles applied were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have approximately the same number of clubs in each Division.</li> <li>• Establish Areas with a mixture of strong and not-so-strong clubs.</li> </ul>



- Clubs meeting online should be able to move from their current Areas.

The proposed changes are

- Realign three Divisions, C, D and E, into two Divisions, C and D.
- Move Solnet from Area G4 to Area G2.
- Realign three Areas, J3, J4 and J5, into two Areas, J3 and J4.
- Move Cupcake Communicators from J5 to J2.

PQD Glen Pearce thanked the Re-alignment Committee for all their hard work and also thanked all the people who had sent feedback to the committee.

On behalf of the District Realignment Committee, PQD Glen Pearce moved that the District Realignment Report dated 17 April 2023 be received.

As this is a report from a committee, no seconder is required.

If there is no objection, the District Realignment Report dated 17 April 2023 will be received.

There were no objections so the motion to receive the District Realignment Report dated 17 April 2023 is adopted.

**PQD Glen Pearce, on behalf of the District Realignment Committee, moved that the District Realignment Report dated 17 April 2023 be adopted.**

The District Realignment Report dated 17 April 2023 was opened for discussion.

Div D Dir Celina Templeman thanked the Committee for all their work and congratulate them on the opportunities there had been for members to give feedback to the Committee.

PRM Kath Cherrie agreed with Div D Dir Celina Templeman pointing out that all members have had opportunities to engage with and comment on the realignment proposals.

Area G2 Director Siân Farr said that under the principles the one thing she saw missing was logistics for club visits. This was not a problem in her Area but there are Areas where Area Directors have a lot of travel, which is a problem with the low mileage allowance, and not all sites have wi-fi. Any comment?

DD Kathryn Duncan responded that incoming Area Directors would not be expected to undertake long journeys to carry out club visits but would be expected to carry out those visits online. Westport was one of the clubs that contacted the committee and said that they didn't see anyway around being in a geographically large Area as there are only two clubs on the West Coast: Westport and Greymouth.

DD Glen Pearce pointed out that this alignment is just for 12 months and if changes need to be made in 12 months, they can be made.

	<p>Area G2 Director Siân Farr suggested that logistics of travel to clubs should be one of the principles taken into account by future Realignment Committees.</p> <p>Div J Dir Murray Ingram commended the committee on the work they had done and asked about the potential for growth going forward. All the Areas in the proposed J have five or six clubs.</p> <p>DD Glen Pearce said that as new clubs chartered, new Areas could be created.</p> <p>Some Area Directors commented that Areas with six clubs were too much work.</p> <p>Area J2 Director Laura Bruce asked how many Areas would have more than four clubs under the proposed realignment. PQD Glen Pearce did a quick count and found that three Areas have four clubs. Area J2 Director Laura Bruce asked how many Areas there are in total. PQD Glen Pearce counted 19.</p> <p>Area E6 Director Reuben Painter asked when the realignment would take effect. PQD Glen Pearce responded 1 July. Area E6 Director Reuben Painter asked how this would affect the election of Division Directors at the District Council Meeting on 13 May. District Parliamentarian David Templeman confirmed that we would be voting on the realignment proposal before the election of officers for 2023-24 so we will know whether we need four or five Division Directors.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked for a seconder for the motion.</p> <p><b>Seconder: Div C Dir Kayleen Gilder</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan:  <b>It has been moved and seconded that the District Realignment Report dated 17 April 2023 be adopted.</b>  Voting via the electronic platform:  For: 17  Against: 0  Abstain: 1</p> <p><b>The ayes have it. The motion is carried.</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Senior District Officer Reports</b></p> <p><b>16.1 Division C Director Report</b>  Division C Director Kayleen Gilder moved that the Division C report be received as published.</p> <p><b>16.2 Division D Director Report</b>  Division D Director Celina Templeman moved that the Division D report be received as published with the following update: Avon Toastmasters Club have paid their dues to 30 September 2023 and are now in good-standing.</p>

**16.3 Division E Director Report**

Area E6 Director Reuben Painter moved that Division E Director Erik Roeper's Division E report be received as published.

**16.4 Division G Director Report**

Division G Director Moumita Jaminder moved that her Division G report be received as published with the following verbal update: In her report she said that Capital Club was planning to close. Since then, they have recovered and are moving forward.

**16.5 Division J Director Report**

Division J Director Murray Ingram moved that his Division J report be received as published.

**16.6 Public Relations Manager Report**

PRM Kath Cherrie moved that her report be received as published.

**16.7 Immediate Past District Director Report**

DD Kathryn Duncan moved that Immediate Past District Director David O'Brien's Report be received as published.

**16.8 Club Growth Director Report**

CGD Mary Jaksch moved that her report be received as published with the following verbal update: about 60% of clubs have ordered the new Visitor Booklet and the mini-flyers.

**16.9 Program Quality Director Report**

PQD Glen Pearce moved that his report be received as published.

**16.10 District Director Report**

DD Kathryn Duncan moved that her report be received as published with the following update: in her report she stated that 18 clubs were Distinguished or above, which should have been 12 clubs were Distinguished or above.

**Motion: that all the senior officers' reports, except the Finance Manager's report, be received.**

Voting via the electronic platform

For: 18

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**The motion is carried.**

All Senior Officers' Reports, other than the Finance Manager's Report, were opened for discussion.

	<p>Area J2 Director Laura Bruce asked Div G Dir Moumita Jamindar which Capital Club she referred to in her verbal update. Div G Dir Moumita Jamindar replied that Capital Toastmasters in Area G4 had been planning to close but now had eleven members and a plan to move forward. Area J2 Director Laura Bruce asked if they had a club coach. Response: No, they don't.</p> <p>Div G Dir Moumita Jamindar: Capital Toastmasters were not using Pathways. They were giving random speeches, which is probably why they were having difficulty maintaining membership and attracting guests. How can we encourage them to use Pathways? Can they operate if they are not using Pathways?</p> <p>Area G2 Director Siân Farr suggested working with the VP-Education to get members doing random speeches to use those speeches as Pathways projects.</p> <p>Div D Dir Celina Templeman suggested holding a workshop to go through the new Presentation Mastery Pathway, which is closer to what some of the older Toastmasters may be used to.</p> <p>Area J5 Director Karen Lynley suggested that everybody could work together so everyone does an Icebreaker, and so on.</p> <p>Area J2 Director Laura Bruce asked what is the process for assigning clubs a club coach or identifying clubs who might benefit from a club coach.</p> <p>CGD Mary Jaksch explained that two things have to happen. First, a club has to have twelve or fewer members. Second, they have to want to have a club coach. Third, we need to have a club coach ready for them. We have a potential club coach who would be willing to coach a club in Wellington but the club has to want it. That is the key thing.</p> <p>There was no further discussion.</p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan asked for someone to move that we adjourn for five minutes.</p> <p>Moved by Area D1 Director Louise Landess: that the meeting adjourns for five minutes.</p> <p>Area J5 Director Karen Lynley asked when we would be finished. DD Kathryn Duncan assured her that it would be before 4.30 pm.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned.</p>
17	<p><b>Administrative Procedure Change</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan wished to present this motion so asked CGD Mary Jaksch to take the chair.</p> <p>CGD Mary Jaksch asked DD Kathryn Duncan to move the motion and then provide the rationale for this procedural change.</p>

**Motion:**

**DD Kathryn Duncan moved that, effective immediately, District Administrative Procedure A6 shall read ‘Once the District Executive Committee makes a decision, each committee member, regardless of personal point of view, shall support the decision in all communications with members.’**

**Rationale:**

The rationale is, simply, the DEC, the District Executive Committee, is the place to debate everything in depth, as there is not time in the Council, and then to present a united front to membership.

**Seconded: Area J5 Director Karen Lynley**

CGD Mary Jaksch asked for questions.

Area J2 Director Laura Bruce stated that she was concerned about both the rationale and the motion. She was concerned that it unnecessarily restricts District Officers and that the motion contravenes Toastmasters International Governing Procedures, in that it is more restrictive than the over-arching governing documents.

DD Kathryn Duncan replied that Jonathan Lam, District Growth and Support Director at Toastmasters International had been contacted and had replied that he was more than satisfied that the motion does not contravene the governing documents and that it is an appropriate motion.

Area J2 Director Laura Bruce said that she too had correspondence from World Headquarters that indicated that it would not be allowed for a District Officer to be forbidden to speak for or against a motion at the District Council meeting, regardless of the discussion during the District Executive Meeting.

The correspondence was:

Question to World Headquarters: Our District has a motion saying that DEC members, District Executive Committee members, who discuss an issue prior to it going to Council, will be forbidden to speak for or against that motion at council. Is this allowed?

World Headquarters’ response: It would not be allowed for a DEC member to be forbidden to speak for or against a motion at the District Council meeting regardless of the discussion during District Executive Committee meeting.

Follow-up question: Can you confirm that this would be considered an operating procedure, as outlined in the District Leadership Handbook, and thus cannot be more restrictive than the Governing Documents?

World Headquarters’ response: No matter how the rule is presented it is not allowed. Members of the District Executive Committee are also District

Council Members. Placing the rule as part of the Operating Procedures is more restrictive than the Governing Documents.

Question: Under what circumstances could a District Procedure limit or restrict the right of District Executive Committee members to speak at Council?

World Headquarters' response: I am not aware of any restriction that can be created to limit the ability for a District Executive Committee member to speak during a District Council meeting, with the exception of anything that is confidential from the District Executive Committee.

Question: Under what circumstances could a District Procedure limit or restrict the right of DEC members to speak at Council?

World Headquarters' response: District Executive Committee Meetings are answerable to the District Council thus, for the most part, no matters discussed would be considered confidential.

Division D Director Celina Templeman asked who the correspondence was from.

(It was clarified that the question was: who signed the email?)

Area J2 Director Laura Bruce said she could not find the email but it was somebody called Jill.

Public Relations Manager Kath Cherrie supported the motion. She said that it was exactly the same approach she had come across in other organizations. Once the governing body has discussed something and made a decision, whether or not she agrees with that decision, once a decision is made and a majority are either for it or against it, it is her job as part of that governing group to support that decision. And I think that is exactly what this motion is aiming to do. She has been at Council meetings where District Exec members relitigate something that has been discussed in-depth at the Exec meeting and all that seems to do is cause unsettlement among our members. So, she is totally in favour of this motion.

Area D1 Director Louise Landess had three questions:

1. What is the urgency to pass this motion today, given that the DEC meets quarterly? Could we not defer the discussion as it clearly requires consideration.
2. Is this not a question that should be discussed at club level and fed upwards through Area and Division Councils?
3. What does 'all communications to members' mean? For example, if you are flatting with someone or married to someone, does that mean you cannot talk about it?

DD Kathryn Duncan responded that the word 'all' is a difficult one. Obviously, no one can check on conversations in people's homes, or at the bar, or in the coffee shop. The intention is that when we go in front of Council we are presenting as a united voice.

Area D1 Director Louise Landess asked if she would be able to talk to a club president.

DD Kathryn Duncan replied that she would.

Area J4 Director Thomas Wynne expressed his concern that there should not be a re-discussion after a decision has been made, because circumstances change. He said people are entitled to their own opinions and should be free to discuss them with whoever they like. Also, if a decision has been made and people are discussing it and continuing to get it changed, that should be encouraged rather than suppressed. He asked why would you want an organisation that is kind of run in an authoritarian way of 'This is the decision that was made. We are just going to stick with that. It does not matter if people's opinions change or, perhaps, external factors change the need for those specific rules.'

AM Esther Haines asked if the problems with the words 'all communications' could be solved by removing the word 'all'

**AM Esther Haines moved that we amend the motion by striking out the word 'all'.**

**Seconded: PQD Glen Pearce**

Area Director J2 Laura Bruce said she was not sure the District Director had responded to her point that a District Administrative Procedure cannot be more restrictive than the Toastmasters International Governing Documents.

DD Kathryn Duncan responded by saying that the advice that she got was different from the advice given to Area Director J2 Laura Bruce. DD Kathryn Duncan asked District Parliamentarian David Templeman to comment.

District Parliamentarian David Templeman said he felt that DD Kathryn Duncan and he had made a mistake with the rationale but that the motion is still correct. District Officers have the right to speak and vote at the District Council but, when we make a decision at the District Executive Committee, we have lots of time to discuss it whereas at the Council Meeting discussion is limited to 12 minutes. We cannot stop anybody speaking. The motion is more about how the decisions are presented to membership so that we do appear as a team.

Acting chair CGD Mary Jaksch read the motion with the amendment:

I move that, effective immediately, District Administration Procedure A6 shall read 'Once the District Executive Committee makes a decision, each committee member, regardless of personal point of view, shall support the decision in communications to members.'

Area J5 Director Karen Lynley clarified that we are just voting on the amendment.

Due to difficulties in amending the motion on the electronic voting platform, the vote was held via Chat on Zoom and by show of hands in the room.

There were fifteen votes for the amendment, so the amendment was carried.

The amended motion was opened for discussion.

Area J5 Director Karen Lynley said that the motion seems a little different from what the discussion has been, in that the discussion has been about what we talk about here and then in the Council Meeting, whereas the motion says 'in communications with members'. So, if an Area Director goes to a club and someone asks about it, they should speak in favour of that. Is that correct?

This was confirmed.

Area D1 Director Louise Landess asked if we could defer the discussion since its obviously a lack of clarity around what it is, with conflicting advice from World Headquarters Could it not wait until the next quarter?

DD Kathryn Duncan responded that she doesn't have an answer to that as she believes we should put the motion to the vote and see what the Executive Committee wants.

Div D Dir Celina Templeman asked if she could insert the words 'at the District Council' into the motion. DP David Templeman said that would be amending the amendment and not permissible.

Area J2 Director Laura Bruce said she was concerned that the motion to limit rather than eliminate discussion at the District Council is really a contravention of our principles, our guiding principles of respect, integrity, service and excellence. She was also concerned that if an issue is contentious at the Executive Committee, the minutes are not prepared in time for member of the District Council to have any insight on the discussion that may have taken place robust or otherwise. The idea that members of the District Executive Committee would be gagged at the District Council Meeting just doesn't seem in keeping to me with the principles of Toastmasters and our core values. There are provisions in Robert's Rules of Order, which can limit discussion. If a motion is contentious a motion can be made to limit discussion on that motion to curtail discussion but the idea that our elected, or rather appointed, District Officers would want to silence members of the District Executive Committee is, frankly, concerning to me. I don't understand the rationale. The idea that time savings are more important than the ability for us to speak candidly in any forum concerns me and the idea that World Headquarters has suggested that this is more restrictive than the Governing Documents should be enough for members of the District Executive Committee to vote against this motion.

Area D4 Director Leonie Wilkinson asked for an example of a decision being made by the District Executive Committee and going forward to the District Council.

DD Kathryn Duncan's responded:

Firstly, we have had cases, particularly in the financial report, where it has been discussed at the District Executive and then when we have gone to the District Council, the same people that were asking questions at the District Executive, who were voted down, like their



	<p>opinion wasn't agreed with by other members of the DEC, have then tried to bring their same argument up again. Well, the whole reasoning for me is, what is the point of us having a discussion and making decisions at the DEC, if we are not going to then continue with the decision of the collective. And to me, that's the reason for why it was put forward. What is the point of us actually having these meetings if it is not so that we can get a collective voice to go forward to the Council with a collective?</p> <p>Area E6 Director Reuben Painter asked for clarification. He had gained the impression that abuse had happened at previous meetings and wondered whether that was correct and whether that was the motion has been put forward.</p> <p>Acting chair CGD Mary Jaksch asked DD Kathryn Duncan if she had not already made it clear that this had occurred and was part of the rationale for bringing forward this motion.</p> <p>Acting Chair CGD Mary Jaksch:</p> <p><b>It has been moved and seconded that that, effective immediately, District Administration Procedure A6 shall read 'Once the District Executive Committee makes a decision, each committee member, regardless of personal point of view, shall support the decision in communications to members.'</b></p> <p>Voting via the electronic platform:  Yes: 14 (13 was announced but 14 is on the Dashboard)  No: 5  Abstain: 2  <b>The 'Ayes' have it. The motion is carried.</b></p> <p><b>The following asked for their 'No' vote to be recorded:</b>  <b>Area C3 Director Liz Doubtfire</b>  <b>Area D1 Director Louise Landess</b>  <b>Area J1 Director Roger Hynd</b>  <b>Area J2 Director Laura Bruce</b>  <b>Area J4 Director Thomas Wynne</b></p> <p>Acting chair CGD Mary Jaksch returned control of the meeting to DD Kathryn Duncan.</p>
18	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>There was no general business.</p>
17	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be a District Executive Committee Meeting to be held online on <b>Sunday 9 July 2023 at a time yet to be confirmed.</b></p>
19	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>DD Kathryn Duncan thanked all who had participated in or assisted with the meeting. She appreciated the debate and the conversation that has happened in the meeting today.</p>

There being no further business, DD Kathryn Duncan asked for a motion that the meeting be closed.

**Motion: that the meeting be closed**

**Moved: Area D1 Director Louise Landess**

**Seconded: CGD Mary Jaksch**

There were no objections and the meeting closed at 3.39 pm.

## **Appendix 1: Attendance District 72 Executive Committee meeting 12 May 2023**

### **Registered Attendance**

District Director Kathryn Duncan  
Program Quality Director Glen Pearce  
Club Growth Director Mary Jaksch  
Immediate Past District Director David O'Brien  
Public Relations Manager Kath Cherrie  
Finance Manager Sheryl Ryan  
Administration Manager Esther Haines

Division C Director Kayleen Gilder  
Division D Director Celina Templeman  
Division G Director Moumita Jamindar  
Division J Director Murray Ingram

Area C1 Director Graeme Hunt (unable to attend)  
Area C2 Director Liz Doubtfire  
Area C4 Director Glenys Forsyth  
Area D1 Director Louise Landess  
Area D4 Director Leonie Wilkinson  
Area D5 Director Lisa Coppins  
Area E5 Director Lovey Ratima-Rapson  
Area E6 Director Reuben Painter  
Area G2 Director Siân Farr  
Area J1 Director Roger Hynd  
Area J2 Director Laura Bruce  
Area J4 Director Thomas Wynne  
Area J5 Director Karen Lynley

Also present:

District Parliamentarian David Templeman

### **Appendix 2: Apologies**

The apologies recorded in the electronic apologies book were:

Division E Director Eric Roeper  
Area D3 Director Dillon Skipper  
Area E3 Director Pauline Jarvis  
Area G7 Director Inger Deighton