

Report of the District Governor

Our District continues to make tracks towards Distinguished status again this year. I believe crucial to our attempts will be every member taking personal responsibility to introduce one other person to the benefits of Toastmasters. This is what John Lau's 1 + 1 program is designed for.

Distinguished District Progress

As you already know, the criteria for measuring and reporting on District's progress towards its Distinguished status goal has changed this year:

1. First, we no longer count the total number of Competent Communicator and Advanced Communicator awards - instead we count the total number of clubs achieving Distinguished or higher. With District requiring at least 40% of clubs to be Distinguished, we are well on our way to achieving this goal.
2. Second, District is required to increase its total membership payments by 3%pa which is up from 2.5% in previous years. While this may not sound very much, if the same requirement was in place last year we would only have achieved our membership payment target by a very narrow margin – just 28 membership payments. This is why I believe the 1 + 1 program is so important.
3. Third, District's goal of 196 clubs by June 30th is achievable. With 12 Prospective Clubs and several more potential clubs not yet registered with Toastmasters International, there are enough clubs to replace those which have not renewed this year.

This is a brief summary of our District's position and will need a concerted effort by everyone to help our District be recognised as Distinguished for the fourth consecutive year.

Proxies

At the Council Meeting held at the Semi-Annual Conference in Townsville last November, I made an announcement regarding Policy 1.7 to rescind the direction of the District Executive meeting on September 16th 2012 concerning no Proxies at Area Council Meetings and declared a moratorium on any changes to how District 69 conducts any Area and Division Council Meetings for a period of 1 year or until the Semi Annual Council Meeting of 2013. Past International Director Clare Murphy was charged with pursuing the matter with World Headquarters and received a reply to her submission in January 2013 from Executive Director Dan Rex, which ended: "we are happy to approve your recommendations as put forward and no further action is necessary."

Strategic Plan (separate report)

1 Plus 1

Announced by International President John Lau at the end of last year, the program operates on a very simple action: introduce one new member to Toastmaster and be rewarded. If everyone in our District added one new member, our membership would virtually double. If you have not done this yet, make it your goal to add at least one new member between now and June 30

New Club Chartered

I had the pleasure of attending the Charter Dinner of BeChange at Hope Island Golf Club on the Gold Coast and presiding over the ceremonies. With 49 members and guests, the atmosphere was both relaxed and respectful. I would like to commend BeChange for chartering so quickly after initially forming.

PNG

Each Division Governor and Area Governor has written a Report and I urge you to read them. All of the District Officers have worked very hard to make sure that the clubs and members achieve success and I thank them for their dedication and commitment. I will comment on one Area.

During the month of March, I visited Papua New Guinea with D69 Public Relations Officer David Burston and Area 38 Governor Aro Kia, to assist with their club officer training, raise awareness of Toastmasters in PNG and focus on building new clubs.

From my few days in PNG, it was clear that there is a real need and a genuine desire for Toastmasters in the country. Again and again, Toastmasters was seen as having the power to transform lives by equipping individuals with the necessary skills and confidence to rise higher.

As a District, we have a strong responsibility in ensuring the building of new clubs as well as access to the Toastmasters program for the people of PNG - the time, money, resources and training invested will pay huge dividends in the coming years. My conservative guess is that we will see a trebling of clubs in PNG over the next 2 years, helping our District to fulfil its mission in building new clubs, with one new club was already in formation, SP Brewers in Port Moresby.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all District Officers for their commitment to the District Mission which is to 'build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence,' to all Club Executive members for providing the club setting where members can succeed, and to all Toastmasters in District 69 for making our District one of great energy, experience and diversity.

*Charlie Starrett*DTM

District 69 Governor 2012-2013