



Toastmasters International District 69 Semi-Annual Council Meeting Program Quality Director's Report

By Kevin Croft DTM

For Saturday, 12 September, 2021

All information contained herein is as at Saturday, 4 September, 2021

This report covers the period since the previous PQD Report in May.

1. Club Officer Training

Heart-felt thanks from me to the team of relatively small number who did an extraordinary big effort in delivering what was generally regarded as a high-quality set of Online Club Officer Training (COT) last June-July. From the Division Directors and TLIs with their respective teams, who encouraged the participation of the members, to the team of volunteers who assisted in some way during the sessions, whether in a Facilitator or Tech Support role, I say "thank you".

We are currently in the process of planning the next round of COT, due between November 2021 and February 2022. Anyone wishing to increase their Zoom Tech Support skills, or online Training Facilitation skills, please contact me on pgd@toastmastersD69.org to express your interest, and keep an eye out for training workshops to improve these skills. Divisions are also currently reviewing their options for whether or not they can also deliver face-to-face training. Stay tuned for more news on this if it is possible.

One of the most important points for improvement in future COTs will be to seek to involve more volunteers, so that others gain (or have an opportunity to use) their Facilitation or Tech Support skills. That would also allow those special few from the previous round of training to have the occasional session off without being "burned out". We also wish to encourage back those experienced Toastmasters who may have taken a break from delivering training over recent times, inviting them to exercise and pass on those skills they have acquired.

Christine Lennon DTM PDD also organised and lead another team of dedicated volunteers to deliver COT to the PNG Division.

Whilst Round 1 training has ended, some results are still trickling in. If you believe you should have been credited with attending COT from your participation in some other District, or you wish your District 69 training to be notified to another District, then please let me know at the

same above-mentioned email address as soon as possible, since it is still possible to update the records, but only for a limited time.

2. District Conference

Thanks to last May's Conference Convenor, Coral McVean DTM PRA, and the Conference Committee, who worked diligently to produce what eventually became District 69's first ever fully online Conference, including our 1st online District Speech Contests, and our 2nd online Annual Council Meeting. The main Conference day was hosted by Master of Ceremonies Thomas Krafft DTM, and included an official visit and two presentations from then-current International President Richard Peck DTM IP.

Next year's Conference Convenor, Nicky Jurd DTM, will be delivering a presentation to the same Council Meeting as this report, regarding the intended plans for Cairns in May, 2022. Nicky and her team have been working towards this for several years, so it will be great if COVID-19 is controlled enough to have the first face-to-face District Conference in 3 years.

There will be several District 50th Anniversary "Golden Celebrations" held by Divisions later this year to mark 50 years since District 69 was founded on 1/7/1971. The District Conference in May, 2022, will certainly play its part in this celebration.

3. District Speech Contests

Last year's District 69 Humorous and International Speech Contests took place online via Zoom on Saturday, 17/4, chaired by then-current Moreton Division Director Jenny Owens DTM and District 69 International Speech Champion (2018) Ally Hannon DTM. Congratulations to the Humorous Champion Elysia Liekefett, representing Moreton Division, and International Champion Michael Doohan. Michael also went on to represent District 69 at the Region 12 Quarter Finals. Congratulations also to all 16 Division winners, 8 from each contest type, who represented their Divisions with distinction on the day. Thanks also to Chief Judge Ben McCormick DTM PDD, 9 other judges, 2 Timers, 3 Ballot Counters, and 3 Technical Support staff. You all served your District well in your respective roles.

Looking forward, many clubs have already commenced contests for the 2021-2022 contest season. I am pleased to announce that Trish Springsteen DTM PDG has graciously accepted my offer to be the District 69 Chief Judge this season. I encourage everyone wanting to be a more knowledgeable & capable speech contest judge, as well as any contestants who wish to improve their placings against the judging criteria, to attend the Judges Training that Trish will be delivering on Saturday, 11/9. As well as being advertised in the "District Dot Points" email sent to all members on Friday, 3/9, you can also get to it from the following link:

<http://fdnet.work/d70-goldennuggets>

4. General Operational Issues

I encourage clubs to reach out to their members, to keep them engaged in the Toastmasters education programme as much as possible. Naturally, dues renewal leading up to October is one such opportunity, but I hope it isn't the only time you contact some of your members who may

have not attended meetings recently. If you contact them, ask what their communication and leadership goals are, and then help them achieve them, you'll have a much easier time at dues renewal time, since they will be so keen to stay part of your club.

As well as renewal rates, Pathways adoption rates are another way to see if members are taking advantage of the education opportunities available to them.

A special note to those people who reject receiving any and all District emails, even the good news. Knowing that there are clubs where the principal officers don't allow information to be received from District is quite worrying. In these globally uncertain times, people should be more connected, not less. If your club is one of those, then please re-consider subscribing again so that you and your members can be informed.

5. Awards and Recognition

The biggest event every year for recognition is happening later this month, on Sunday, 19/9/2021, commencing 7:00pm. It is the Annual Hall of Fame, in which the entire District 69 celebrates the achievements of both members and clubs over the previous year. I encourage you all to attend, witness the wonderful achievements that have occurred. A great night of celebration for all.

Some of the recognitions that night (all for the 2020-2021 year) include:

- Clubs that maintained or gained membership over the year
- Distinguished Clubs at various levels
- Distinguished Areas or Divisions at various levels
- Top 10 Clubs in District
- Level 5 Awards
- Triple Crown Awards
- Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) awards
- Long Service Awards for Membership
- Area Director of the Year
- Division Director of the Year
- Toastmaster of the Year

The following table shows the "Top 10 District 69 Clubs 2020-2021 on Education Awards per Base Membership".

Club	Education Awards	July 1 Base	Ratio	Division
Pride	23	10	2.300	B
Kingstons Corporate	57	25	2.280	P
GC Hub	38	21	1.809	S
Oasis on Broadbeach	45	29	1.586	S
Dalby	14	10	1.400	W

Entrepreneurs Capricorn	19	14	1.357	N
Morning Stars	13	10	1.300	E
Wine & Dine	14	11	1.273	C
Pines	14	11	1.273	M
Speak Easy	22	18	1.222	C

My sincere congratulations to every member who has achieved any level of success in their own Toastmasters journey. I trust that we can all work together, observing the Toastmasters Core Values of Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence. May those ideals always guide our words and actions, to make the best Toastmasters experience possible for all members.

Although the world has changed dramatically since the start of 2020, there are clear signs of improvement happening. There is much to look forward to, both within and outside of this organisation, as evidenced by the incredible achievements listed above. I wish each of you all the best in your personal Toastmasters endeavours and, of course, let's have some fun while we are doing that.

Kevin Croft DTM, PQD, 4/9/2021.

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