

Brisbane Division Report for District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting 8 September 2024

Shubhangi Chatterjee, Brisbane Division Director



www.toastmasters.org

The Brisbane Division is thriving with ongoing efforts from our dedicated Area Directors and club officers to boost membership, strengthen club health, and drive growth. In our latest team discussions, we focused on member retention, celebrated the success of our recent Club Officer Training (COT), and geared up for the upcoming area contests.

Key Updates:

Club Health & Membership: Our top priority remains ensuring that every club maintains at least 8 members to stay in good standing. Area Directors have been actively working to support clubs with strategies for both member retention and recruitment, especially focusing on struggling clubs. We also discussed the importance of assigning club coaches to those with fewer than 12 members to increase their chances of success.

Area Directors' Insights:

- **Wayne (Area 5 Director)** – Wayne has scheduled his club visits and shared the exciting news of his Area Conference scheduled for November 30th. He also shared that the Brisbane Division Club Officer Training was a success, providing valuable support to the officers in his Area.
- **Ariel (Area 15 Director)** – Ariel successfully hosted the Area 15 council meeting on 11th August and is actively encouraging his clubs to participate in contests and the upcoming Area 15 Conference on October 12th. He has already sent out "Save the Date" reminders and is scheduling his club visits.
- **Francis (Area 17 Director)** – Despite recent health challenges, Francis has been an inspiration. With the support of Brisbane Division Club Growth Director - Zach and myself, he has continued overseeing key tasks, including planning the Area 17 Conference for October 26th. Zach and I will be helping Francis with his club visits as required.
- **Yves (Area 21 Director)** – Yves is organizing his Area Conference for November 9th at Eleven Bridges Distillery. He is preparing for his official club visits starting next week.
- **Jessie (Area 25 Director)** – Jessie shared her insights from recent club visits, particularly noting the dedication of the members at the clubs in her Area. She has scheduled her club visits and is planning the Area 25 Conference for November 2nd.

Club Officer Training (COT) Success:

Our recent round of COT was a major success, with high attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback from across all areas and Divisions in District 69. We were also joined by Toastmasters from District 70 and 66. The sessions were practical and impactful, providing attendees with valuable tools to lead their clubs. I've shared the attendance reports with all Area Directors and Division Directors for follow-up with any clubs that missed training.

Upcoming Area Contests & Conferences:

Area Directors are ramping up preparations for their contests and have begun sending out "Save the Date" notifications. These contests offer a fantastic opportunity for clubs to engage, learn, and grow through friendly competition.

Key Dates for Area Conferences:

- **Area 15:** October 12th, 9 am - 3 pm, The Polish Club, Milton.
- **Area 17:** October 26th, 8 am - 2 pm, Location TBC.
- **Area 25:** November 2nd, Time TBC, 74 Astor Terrace, Spring Hill.
- **Area 21:** November 9th, 11 am - 5 pm, Eleven Bridges Distillery.
- **Area 5:** November 30th, 2 pm - 9 pm, Brisbane Square Library.

Club Membership Retention:

With the September 30th renewal deadline fast approaching, Area Directors are encouraging their clubs to begin the renewal process early. Our aim is for every club to maintain at least 8 members to stay in good standing.

Supporting Struggling Clubs:

We've discussed specific strategies to assist clubs with membership challenges. Clubs with fewer than 12 members have been encouraged to request a club coach to help rebuild their membership base and set them up for long-term success.

Next Steps:

- Area Directors will continue promoting early membership renewals and offering support to struggling clubs.
- Final details for Area Conferences will be confirmed, and notifications sent to clubs and the details will be published on the District 69 website.
- Brisbane Division Conference will be confirmed shortly, currently BDD is in the process of finalising the venue.

We are confident that with these continued efforts, the Brisbane Division will empower our clubs, grow membership, and ensure every club thrives. Let's keep the momentum going—everyone aboard the 'Distinguished' bus!