

Report of Conference Convenor

District 69 Conference

2nd-4th May 2025

Planning of the Conference is moving ahead.

We have had some challenges with the announcement of the Out2Lunch Festival scheduled to be held on the 3rd and 4th May at the Surfers Paradise Beach. Given the recent damage by Tropical Low Alfred we are not aware if it will still be happening so are proceeding as if it is. It is important to plan as if there will be no parking unless provided at your accommodation and plan travel to the venue with time built in to travel by public transport. There is a light rail stop right outside the venue.

We have had several meetings with management of the Hotel to reach the best Possible workable outcome and still hold the Conference on the same dates as per Instructions. It has been challenging at times but now feel that we will host a memorable event that will give our Contestants the best conditions and all those attending value for money. Final logistics are being worked out with the Venue and AV early next week and then we can confirm definite timing.

All of our Keynote speakers and workshop presenters are giving their time and Services for no charge for which we are extremely grateful.

Sales to the event are slowly starting to come in and now that all the Division Conferences are over we are expecting the contestants and their supporters to Purchase their tickets. We are offering contestants who haven't already purchased Tickets for the full event to do so at the Early Bird rate.

There has been a Teaser video post of D69 Facebook and there will be an update to the information on the D69 webpage early next week. If Divisions or Areas would like a copy we are happy to share. If you let me know by emailing me at convenor@toastmastersd69.org I will get the media Team to share it with you.

As we have a diverse membership within our District and to be fair to all members it was decided to hold the International Speech Contest on Saturday night before

dinner which would have fitted in nicely with the Gala Dinner / Oscar theme for the night. Given the advent of the proposed Festival we wanted the speakers to have the best conditions for filming so decided to change things around and hold the Humorous Contest on Saturday night. It is intended to have both the Evaluation and International Contests are on Sunday before the Festival's planned start of 2pm. This means that there will be no additional noise from anything that is happening outside the building. There may not have been anyway but wanted to ensure the best filming environment for the International.

There will be an electronic banner parade so that all members from Clubs from all over our District can have a presence at the event.

I would like to ask all members of the District Executive Committee to encourage Their members to register for the Conference.

This ends my report.

Christine Lennon

Conference Convenor

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