



Minutes of the 2015-2016 Board of Directors Teleconference November 18, 2015

The 2015-2016 Toastmasters International Board of Directors convened on November 18, 2015, with International President Jim Kokocki DTM, presiding. The other officers and directors present were: Mike Storkey, DTM; Balraj Arunasalam, DTM; Lark Doley, DTM; Mohammed Murad, IPIP, DTM; Crystal Allbritton, DTM; Steven Chen, DTM; Russell L. Drake, DTM; Teresa S. Dukes, DTM; Magnus Jansson, DTM; Ross Mackay, DTM; Patrick Oei, DTM; Margaret Page, DTM; Nagaraja Rao, DTM; Gloria Shishido, DTM; Charlie Starrett, DTM; Joan Watson, DTM; Dennis E. Wooldridge, DTM. Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex, Chief Operations Officer Sally Newell Cohen and Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Quinn also were present. Ede Ferrari-D'Angelo, DTM was absent.

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by International President-Elect Mike Storkey, DTM.

The 2015-2016 Executive Committee convened in Hartford, Connecticut, on November 17-18, 2015, with International President, Jim Kokocki, DTM presiding. The other officers present were: International President-Elect Mike Storkey, DTM; First Vice President Balraj Arunasalam, DTM; Second Vice President Lark Doley, DTM; Immediate Past International President Mohammed Murad, DTM. Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex, Chief Operations Officer Sally Newell Cohen and Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Quinn were also present. No Executive Committee members were absent.

1. The Committee reviewed the organization's performance for the 2015-2016 program year. Club and membership growth are trending at a slower pace than in the two previous years; although it is early in the program year, the Committee will monitor performance over the coming months.
2. The Committee reviewed the World Headquarters Strategic Initiatives Roadmap, a multi-year planning document to forecast resources and project scheduling. Initiatives include implementation of a new association management system (AMS), Web 2.0 enhancements to Club and District Central, the revitalized education program (REP) and planning for the eventual establishment of virtual clubs, all of which will enhance and support the member experience.
3. The Committee received an update on progress made in critical areas of the REP, including:
 - a. The content pilot, through which more than 170 clubs are evaluating the content of the REP projects and testing the process in the club environment. The feedback has been meaningful, validating and constructive.
 - b. Projections that have been developed to estimate program acceptance, language preference and online adoption will be used to develop a pricing strategy, print and inventory process, and translations offering.
 - c. Business processes that have been created for all processes related to the REP.



4. The Committee confirmed the Chief Executive Officer's selection of Chicago, Illinois, United States as the location of the 2018 International Convention. The 2019 International Convention location was discussed and a recommendation will be presented to the Committee in February 2016.
5. Toastmasters International is continuing its efforts to ensure that the organization is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and business rules in the countries where it has a significant presence. The Committee was briefed on progress made to determine if a legal presence must be established in Mexico and Canada. World Headquarters will bring recommendations related to this topic in February 2016.
6. In February 2015, the Board accepted the report of the Smedley Fund Reinvigoration Committee, consisting of recommendations that focus on raising awareness among members and increasing donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. In October 2015, a survey was conducted to measure and benchmark awareness of the Smedley Fund, as well as a member's likelihood of donating and donation preferences. World Headquarters will present an action plan to reinvigorate the Smedley Fund in February 2016.
7. The Committee held a question-and-answer session with club and district leaders from District 53. Committee members shared their leadership journeys and experiences and provided those present with encouragement and an opportunity to learn more about Toastmasters.
8. The Committee reviewed recent district reformations and the status of reformations in progress. The Committee recommends that the Board approve a request from District 6 (Minnesota, U.S. and Ontario, Canada) to establish a reformation committee.
9. The Committee discussed and reviewed the proposed 2016 Toastmasters International budget and recommends that the Board approve the 2016 budget, including a 25 percent dues increase to take effect on October 1, 2016, coinciding with the beginning of the October 2016 renewal period.
10. The Toastmasters International District Assistance Program (DAP) provides added support to districts that struggle to achieve the district mission as measured by the Distinguished District Program. The Committee reviewed the DAP and tasked World Headquarters with researching and assessing the district lifecycle, obstacles to success and opportunities to strengthen the support provided by Region Advisors, World Headquarters and the Board.



11. The Committee reviewed and approved the signers on district accounts as submitted by each district on the District Signature Form for Withdrawal of District Funds. The signers are authorized to spend district funds through June 30, 2016 for the following districts:

Founders
District 41
District 59
District 71
District 73
District 78
District 92
District 94
District 95
District 97P

The Executive Committee reconvened as the Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee addressed two topics: Board effectiveness and success metrics for the 2015 Strategic Plan. The Committee drafted a potential board-assessment tool and directed World Headquarters to further develop the tool and provide an update in February 2016. Related to the 2015 Strategic Plan, the Committee discussed a methodology to be used to further define, plan, budget and measure initiatives that support the plan's objectives.

The Board voted to accept and approve the recommendations and actions 1-8 and 10-11. Separately, the Board voted by the required two-thirds majority to approve item 9, the Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the 2016 budget and a 25 percent dues increase to take effect on October 1, 2016.

Pursuant to Policy 11.3, items contained in the minutes of this meeting were classified as "unrestricted" upon distribution of the minutes by World Headquarters, not to include any matters marked "restricted".

Jennifer Quinn
Secretary/Treasurer

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