

District 15 District Director's Report

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Do you remember where you were on 9/11/2001? Or if you are a bit older, when Kennedy was shot? We remember traumatic events. Looking back on 2020 & 2021 will be remembered as a similar tragic time. This Toastmasters year, we've focused on survival. Once meeting in person became impossible, most clubs managed to keep meeting with zoom. Not meeting in person wasn't our preference, it was a necessity.

Some clubs weren't able to make the transition and have folded. This is a permanent loss to our District. For those clubs that managed not to lose any members, I'm astounded. For those that recruited others from far and wide, even more astounded.

One of the silver linings to meeting remotely was in training and conference attendance. We had record amounts of people attending training. Higher training attendance reduced resources required for makeup training. Both the conference and awards night set records. Sadly, I sure missed spending time with everyone in the hospitality suite!

Giving people the tools to succeed on zoom was a boon for those who had to use it for work meetings. So many of the Pathways projects emphasize working with technology. Online meetings will probably be a Covid-19 legacy.

We've also been able to conduct workshops with World Champions of Public Speaking. We've had access to some truly excellent ideas with more workshops to come.

My challenge to you is to embrace hybrid meetings. We must learn to use a combination of in person and zoom attendance. It's been a traumatic year. Let's commit to keep moving forward and make 2021-2022 a new start for our District 15 members.