

District 15 Program Quality Director's Report

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We started our Toastmasters year in a pandemic. It is hard to do any kind of reporting without having those pandemic glasses on while looking at what the current environment looks like.

We are over a year into this new way of approaching social interaction and it will change how we will interact in the future. Good, bad, what ever you think, this has been a fundamental change that won't be going away so easily.

As a District, we adapted and continue adapting. I had a mentor once tell me "It is not enough to be flexible, you have to be fluid as changes occur around you". This is one of those very fluid situations where we need to flow as best as we can. Sometimes that means there will be those who cannot or will not flow with changes and that is ok, but the rest of us still need to move forward.

We have seen a tremendous impact to what our district looks like over the past year and we are still evolving. Our clubs have moved to virtual meetings and now with an easing of guidelines, we will once again change or evolve into a hybrid setting, revert back to in-person meetings, or keep with virtual-only meetings. Each club needs to decide, for themselves, what the best way forward is for their members. It cannot just be one voice, but the consensus of all the members on what they want their club to look like going forward.

This new way of interaction has made our Toastmasters world flatter and we have visitors and members from around the world. They are able to connect with the virtual solution and be successful.

We are now in the final planning stages of our Virtual District conference and using the lessons learned from throughout the year has helped us put together a great experience that will help foster community throughout our District.

Using our virtual technology, we were able to have our first virtual Fall Awards Event. We were also able to have virtual officer training by Divisions last fall. Our last officer training event was district-wide, we had over 200 officers trained at that event alone. Being able to utilize resources from across the district really helped to have a better quality to the training. Our focus was to make the winter officer training a better experience for our member by reviewing what they had learned and what gaps we could help them with. After the training period, we had over 67% of officers trained. We will continue to build our members experience and offer relevant and useful information at these events.

What does the district look like right now?

We have 60 active clubs out of our 81-club base. What does that mean? Where are those 21 clubs? It means that there are some clubs that do not have at least 8 members renewed for the new dues period or it could mean that a club has decided to dissolve. Review the following club statuses:

- **Active**
 - Eight or more members are paid for the current renewal period — at least three of whom are renewing members.
- **Low**
 - Paid member count is fewer than eight.
- **Ineligible**
 - Paid member count does not include three renewing members.
- **Suspended**
 - Club has been low or ineligible for one full renewal period and must now be reinstated to prevent permanent closure.

Educational Awards

We are still earning educational awards, since the beginning of the toastmaster's year, we have had 475 educational awards earned by our members. Out of that number, 21 were Distinguished Toastmasters Awards.

We have, to date, 55 members with one or more Triple Crowns.

We have six clubs, as of this report, that have reached distinguished club status:

President Distinguished Clubs

- Jack C High Club
- More Toasting. More Doing.
- Park City Toastmasters Club

Select Distinguished Clubs

- The Capitol Club
- Boise Club
- Image Masters Toastmasters Club

Pathways

As of the 18th of April, we have 85% of our current membership that has started Pathways. Let's keep working towards 100%!!

My hope is to keep helping the district evolve into this new environment. Someone told me that "hope" is not a plan and it isn't, but it is a want to have something change for the better. The planning and execution part comes from all of us working together. District leadership cannot do it alone, it is the volunteers throughout the district that help us improve our member experience. Please think about volunteering some of your time to help evolve this district into an experience we are all proud to be a part of.

Please take care of yourselves and your families and I hope to see you virtually or otherwise.

-Maria