



# Minutes

## District59 Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Madrid

### I. Opening

#### A. Call to Order

At 11:36 a.m. Markus Künkel, District Director, called the meeting to order. He welcomed members and the special guests: Mike Storkey, International President, and his wife, as well as Aletta Rochat, Region 11 Advisor.

#### B. District Mission

Ulrike Laubner, Administration Manager, read the District's Mission: "We built new clubs and support clubs to achieve excellence."

#### C. Certificate of Quorum

Ulrike Laubner, Administration Manager, reported that 39 District Officers were present at the opening of the meeting and therefore a quorum was reached. She explained: A majority over the total numbers of District Officers (77) is required for a quorum. This year the quorum is reached with more than 36 delegates.

#### D. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was changed to reduce the topics and shorten duration time of the meeting. The ones topics that would be reported at the upcoming DCM, were cancelled. Majority adopted the amended agenda as presented.

#### E. Approval of last DECM Minutes (Athens)

District Director, Markus Künkel, reported that the minutes of previous District Executive Council had been sent more than four weeks in advance. By majority, the minutes were adopted as sent out.

### II. Report

#### A. The District Strategy

District Director, Markus Künkel, informed that the District Success Plan had been ready at a very early stage and the team was working very well together. There were no changes in the District Officer Team. He pointed out the importance of the three pillars of the district success: program quality, club growth, and strategy for the district. He emphasized the importance of networking between neighbouring districts, divisions, and clubs to maintain diverse culture and learn from each other.

## B. Audit and Treasurer Report

Zukhra Abdumalikova, Finance Manager, presented the final budget as the accounting team at WHQ had approved it. She informed that the actual figures show that many officers do not hand in their expenses for travel and marketing. She reminded all District officers to hand in their expenses for reimbursements. Zukhra Abdumalikova informed that District 59 has received more revenue due to the dues increase and a substantial membership growth.

Chantale Evertsz, Division C Director, asked to see the last quarterly report. This report will be sent out to the DD and AD.

## III. Division Reports

### Division Success Plans

Division Success Plans were presented according to the agenda, in a non-alphabetical order, “to see what the neighbour does”, as Markus Künkel explained. Changes to the presenter are marked below with an\*

- Division A- France, presented by Uta Bunde
- Division B- Belgium, presented by Christa Filip
- Division C- Netherlands, presented by Chantale Evertsz
- Division D- Portugal, presented by Tanja Pires (Area D2 Director)
- Division L- Portugal, presented by Norberto Amaral
- Division M- Portugal, presented by Gustavo Amaro
- Division H- Spain, presented by Benito Vega Gonzàles
- \*Division F- France, presented by Carol Bausor, ACS, ALB (As a non-DEC Member she was excused acting as a proxy to the Div Dir F)
- Division K- Spain, presented by Emilia Fossati
- Division E- Switzerland, presented by Angela Saxby Robbins
- Division I- Switzerland, presented by Nina Carrasco
- Division J- Switzerland, presented by Aires Marques (Area J1 Director)
- Division G- Italy, presented by Francesca Gammicchia

Gustavo Amaro, Division M Director, moved to approve the Division Reports as presented and it was seconded. The motion was carried by majority.

## IV. Current TMI Business

As a special guest, Mike Storkey, International President, was joining the conference to demonstrate the importance and support for D59. According to him, for the first time Toastmasters International is facing a district splitting into three districts. D59 is breaking the

history. He made himself available for questions and the following points of information were raised:

- Robert Johnstone, Area A5 Director, raised a point of information questioning the implications of the split in terms of diversity to the new three districts. Mike Storkey, International President, pointed out that diversity does not only arise from combining different countries, but also from various personalities that do exist in the clubs. He encouraged meeting other community or corporate clubs etc. "Diversity is a state of mind not a state of location";

- Marc raised a point of information asking if it is possible to conduct contests in a Region to allow for a more diversity. Mike Storkey, International President, replied that Toastmasters International service is not all about supporting conferences. It is only a minority of members who are joining conferences and in the same time the workload for the organisers is tremendously high. The huge amount of work for the preparation does not give benefit to all. Contests are held in the districts and Toastmasters International do not plan to do them at region level.

- Chantale Evertsz, Division C Director, raised a point of information asking what will happen with the contests if the Fall conferences are eliminated. Mike Storkey, International President, answered that the contest procedure will not change and are upon the Districts decision. However, the Fall conferences are not supported by Toastmasters International due to great deal of work involved;

- Uta Bunde, Division A Director, raised a point of information to have a recommendation about how to find the most suitable members for the upcoming three districts officer leader teams. Mike Storkey, International President, replied that there is not standard rule in place. It is necessary to encourage members to consider a leadership role in the future. They need to understand steps needed to be an officer and the benefits for their private and business life. He closed with the words "A good communicator is a good base for a good leadership";

- Eric David, Area H2 Director, raised a point of information questioning the status of Toastmasters International position with respect to "Agora Speakers". Mike Storkey, International President, informed that very little is known about this organisation. He pointed out, that any member can have an own opinion and change his mind. There is enough room for another organisation. He informed that the material shown in the internet is taken over from Toastmasters International, which is not allowed. However, the new organisation should base on their own propriety, such as materials and members' addresses;

- Flavio Oliveira, Area M1 Director, raised the point of information asking how the officers shall deal with the reasons behind the membership dues increase. Mike Storkey, International President, explained that it is very common that one is complaining about rising dues. However, Toastmasters International was faced with more membership growth than in the previous five years. The board does not increase the dues easily. The cost have to be raised to

preserve the same good service to the districts as in the past. Toastmaster is still the most reasonable educational organisation in the world, and members see the value.

- Emilia Fossati, Division K Director, raised the point of information to find out the best practices to lead the process of the realignment. Mike Storkey, International President, showed his trust in the Districts team: "The bond in D59 and D95 is great" and encouraged the current officers to communicate with each other for best practices, to ask past leaders and to get support by Toastmasters, such as the HQ or the Regional Advisor;

- Norberto Amaral, Division L Director, questioning if the non-profit organisation will be threatened by club money and about the reasons behind the dues increase. He also asked if the reserve of Toastmasters International is as high as shown on the internet. Mike Storkey, International President, answered that the organisation is not threatened by club money. He repeated that the reasons for the dues increase have been informed via a letter to all members. The budget of Toastmasters can be reviewed each year after August. Toastmaster International has purchased a less costly building and will move WHQ to Denver, Colorado, in order to spend less money and recruit working staff more easily;

- Francesca Gammicchia, Division G Director, raised a point of information questioning why the money needed to finance conferences and contests cannot come from one pool instead of the district's budget. Mike Storkey, International President, replied that Toastmasters International is constantly looking to do its business better and to have a more equal way to spread the money, however the way to handle district business is currently through district budget.

## V. New Business

### A. Languages for next contest season

Ulrike Laubner, Administration Manager, moved to add the French language as a third language to the District 59 Spring Conference in May 2017, taking place in Winterthur, Switzerland. It was seconded. The motion was carried by majority.

Francesco Fedele, Public Relation Manager, recognised the winner for "How to make a video". He rewarded Alice Baley, Area A4 Director, as the first officer who submitted a video and encouraged all officers to promote the "quik" tool to be used as an easy PR tool for all clubs, areas and divisions.

## VI. Adjournment

Markus Künkel, District Director, informed about the DECM in Seville taking place on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 9 am – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 1pm.

Markus Künkel, District Director, adjourned this meeting at 13:35 pm.

**All presentations are accessible via:**

<http://www.district59.org/officer-resources/district-executive-committee/>