

DISTRICT 217 District Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2026 | Virtual Meeting

Attendees: 117 | Clubs Represented: 73

I. CALL TO ORDER

District Director Bryant Pergerson called the meeting to order. Quorum was confirmed with additional attendees joining during the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented with minor time adjustments.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Bryant presented the meeting minutes from April 22, 2026, which documented the first official District 217 Council meeting and officer elections. The minutes were approved without objection.

IV. DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Bryant explained the structure of the District Executive Committee (DEC) and District Council, highlighting the differences between the two bodies and their respective roles in overseeing district operations. He presented the DEC appointments for approval, which included:

- Core team members
- Division directors (8 divisions)
- Area directors
- Immediate past district directors

Motion: The council accepted all DEC appointments without objection.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Presentation by Finance Manager Jolene Rasmussen

Jolene presented the district's financial report and proposed budget:

- Current bank funds: Over \$30,000
- Projected membership revenue: \$103,000
- Proposed budget: \$103,511
- Budget development: Over 100 hours of preparation
- Approval status: Pre-approved by Toastmasters International and DEC

The budget meets Toastmasters International requirements and percentage allocations for district activities including education, marketing, club growth, and administration. Bryant noted that the district retains 25% of membership dues, and new members pay three times this year for rating purposes.

Motion: Roderick Gooden moved to approve the budget of \$103,511.

Second: Roland Lambe

Vote: Approved by 100% of voting members

VI. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Club Growth Report – Terrence Armstrong, Club Growth Director

Membership Incentive Programs:

- Fantastic Four Program: \$25 district bucks for clubs with 4 new members
- Smedley Award: \$25 district bucks plus ribbon for clubs with 5 new members
- Have Gavel, Will Travel: Support program for clubs with 15 or fewer members

Support Needs:

- Requested volunteers to serve as club coaches, mentors, and sponsors
- 30 clubs currently identified as needing assistance

B. Program Quality Report – Misty Mitchell, Program Quality Director

Pathways Club Challenge:

- Ribbons and \$10 district store credit to first 25 clubs meeting monthly goals
- QR code/link to be provided in chat; special arrangements available for members with disabilities

CSP Early Bird Incentive:

- Ribbons and \$20 district store credit for early Club Success Plan submissions

Seven Times Two Officer Training Program:

- Mini gavels and ribbons for trained officers

Triple Crown Recognition Program:

- Recognition for multiple achievements

Area Contests:

- Timeline confirmed; combined contests must be completed sequentially

C. Public Relations Report – Sandy Campbell, PR Manager

District 217 Website:

- New website launched; technical issues being addressed

Monthly Newsletter:

- “The District Voice” published monthly

Social Media & Communications:

- Various social media channels active; podcast interviews with Andrea to continue
- Content to be posted on district YouTube channel

District Store Issues:

- Migration from District 117 ongoing; cart functionality problems identified
- “District 117 Bucks” needs renaming to “District 217 Bucks”
- Sandy encouraged club presidents to share successes and stories

D. Operations Report – Glenn Scales

- Two storage facilities maintained in Charlotte and Cary areas
- Recent purchases: tents and new AV equipment
- Equipment available for district events

E. Audit Committee Report – Michael Beach

- Review of district expenses and budget compliance
- Focus areas: International Convention expenses and meal allowances

VII. DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORTS

Each of the eight division directors provided updates on their areas:

- Progress on club visits
- Club Success Plan development
- Officer training completion

VIII. DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT – BRYANT PERGERSON

Bryant outlined his responsibilities as District Director:

- Overseeing district finances
- Appointing district leaders
- Preparing reports to Toastmasters International World Headquarters

New Leadership Recognition Awards Announced:

- Exceptional Leadership Awards: Recognition at club, area, division, and district levels
- Club level: Cornerstone Award
- Area level: Bridge Builder Award
- Division level: Horizon Expander Award
- District level: Influential Architect Award

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall Event Planning

Bryant and Misty announced plans for a potential fall event:

- Event name: “Trick or Speech”
- Proposed timing: Between Halloween and the week prior (date to be finalized)
- Status: Date and location to be announced

B. Security Alert

Roland Lamb reported receiving suspicious emails labeled “Toast Managers.” Misty provided guidance to forward such emails to the appropriate Toastmasters International address for investigation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by District Director Bryant Pergerson.