



District 105 Council Meeting – Minutes

Summary

Subject	Minutes of the First District Council Meeting 2017 - 2018
Date and Time	Friday, 20 October 2017, 08.30 am (GMT+4) to 06:30 pm (GMT+4)
Location	Emirates Headquarters Auditorium, Dubai, UAE

Attendee List

1	District Officials
2	Division Directors
3	Area Directors
4	Club Presidents or their proxy holder
5	Club Vice Presidents- Education or their proxy holder
6	Special Invitees

Meeting Call to Order

- District Administration Manager Saju Varghese, DTM called the meeting to order and acknowledged the presence of special invitees International Director, Region 11 Morag Mathieson, DTM, and Past Regional 11 Advisor, Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM.
- District Program Quality Director Nagabhushan Balaji, DTM read the district mission.
- District Director Sunil Kottarathil DTM announced the appointment of Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM as the parliamentarian.
- Parliamentarian Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM explained the house rules for the parliamentary procedures.

Roll Call and Certification of Quorum

- District Administration Manager Saju Varghese, DTM announced the quorum:-
 - Total number of Active Clubs - 188
 - Total Active Club Presidents & VPs – Education - 376
 - Required for the quorum (1/3 rd of 376 which is Sum of Presidents and VPs – Education) - 126
 - At the beginning of the meeting 132 voting members were present (which meets the quorum).
 - Subsequently the count of registered members reached 212.



Adoption of Agenda

District Director Sunil Kottarathil, DTM invited the members to review the agenda and adopt.

Main Motion: TM Ojie Solitario, VP – Education, Amman International Toastmasters Club, Area 3, Division A moved a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by TM Slim Saidi, President, ESCF club, Area 22, Division B.

As there were no further discussion, TM Mandarr Agshikar, Area 34 Director, Division J proposed to close the motion.

Voting was in favour and the motion was adopted.

Approval of Previous Minutes

District Director Sunil Kottarathil, DTM informed that the Minutes of District 20 Council meeting held during DTAC 2017 was circulated. As District 105, the newly reformed District, is holding its first Council meeting, he suggested that a motion be moved to approve the previous meeting minutes.

Main Motion: Vinod Raman DTM, Division B Director, moved a motion to approve previous minutes. The motion was seconded by TM Shakeel Chaudhry of DIC Advanced Toastmasters Club.

As there were no further discussion, TM Anantha Padmanabhan Ramesh, President, Agility Dubai Toastmasters Club, Area 31, Division I proposed to close the motion.

Voting was in favour and the motion was adopted.

Welcome Address

- District Director Sunil Kottarathil, DTM welcomed everyone present to the first District Council meeting of District 105. He appreciated the outstanding performance put forth by all the Leaders/Members at the Club, Area and Division level during the past four months which has contributed in creating a strong base for the newly reformed District 105. He recognized the remarkable achievement of “104 clubs winning the Smedley Award” and stated that it is for the first time that a District has accomplished this achievement i.e. more than 50% of the clubs achieving Smedley Award. He emphasised District’s commitment in providing continuous support and service to its member clubs.



- Sunil Kottarathil, DTM also announced the following official appointments for the year 2017-18.
 - Devlal Sahadevan, DTM, as the District Leadership Committee Chair
 - TM Ravi Moosad as District Alignment Committee Chair
 - District Audit committee comprising of TM Gowrisankar Chandrasekar, TM Pushpaka Shirantha and TM Sivakumar Chandrasekar
 - District Finance Team comprising of TM Aravindakshan Edayillam, TM Manu Nair and TM Arun Chaluparambil

Reports and Presentation

- “Program Quality” report was presented by the District Program Quality Director Nagabhushan Balaji, DTM.

He congratulated everyone for being part of the enhanced vision i.e. the drive and goal towards 100% in all our activities. He also mentioned about our achievement of 15 DTM’s and 17 Triple Crown winners so far. He reiterated our aim of 100% clubs in District 105 achieving distinguished status this year.

He reminded all the attendees the importance of enhancing the quality of club meetings by having the right mix of Project speeches and Evaluations, Table Topics and more importantly the need to adhere to time during club meetings.

He also encouraged all those who are interested in becoming a Pathway Guide to submit their application forms before the deadline of November 5th 2017.

He ended with a message to add more focus on “Start on time and End on time” during the Club meetings, and to show the world that we are professionals in time management.

- “Club Growth” report was presented by the District Club Growth Director Valsakumar P Menon, DTM

He announced that we started our journey this year with 191 clubs, we added so far 6 new clubs. As 9 clubs are yet to be renewed, current count of active clubs is 188. District goal to reach presidents Distinguished status is 207 active clubs. He also mentioned the need of strengthening struggling clubs to become more vibrant and healthy clubs.

He congratulated the 53 clubs that won the Lead & Win award as well as the 104 clubs that won the Smedley award.

Against the membership payment base of 10,982, the District has reached 5,015. The target is to reach 12,000 after completing the April dues renewal.

He reminded us about District goal of “Every Club becoming a Distinguished Club and Every Area becoming a Presidents Distinguished Area”.



- “Public Relations” report was presented by the District Public Relations Manager Manmohan Sreedhar,DTM

The Public Relations function is divided and distributed across the District, rather than being centralised.

He enlightened us on the fabulous Public Relations coverage we received on almost all the major Newspapers during the visit of World Public Speaking Champion of 2017 TM Manoj Vasudevan as well as the coverage we received during the interview of our Past International Presided Mohammed Murad DTM on Radio Channel “dubaieye”.

- “District Budget” was presented in detail by the District Finance Manager Ramesh Anantharaman, DTM

He mentioned that all efforts were made to make the process of reimbursement simple and easy for all the Club, Area and Division officials.

District Director Sunil Kottarathil, DTM mentioned that the budget was circulated to the Excom members and obtained approval before recommending it to TMI. He suggested that a motion be moved to approve and adopt the presented budget.

Main Motion: TM Ramesh Babu Menon, Area 21 Director, Division B moved a motion to approve and adopt the presented budget. The motion was seconded by TM Sufian Abu-Rmaileh, Area 44 Director, Division H.

Discussion Points:-

- 1) TM Fahad Al Kindi, VP Education, New Track Toastmasters, Area 14, Division E observed that the travel utilizes major portion of the budget and suggested that the members should consider bearing those travel expenses themselves. Sunil Kottarathil, DTM noted the suggestion and clarified that the District’s intention is to support the members with partial reimbursement of travel expenses as per TI policy.
- 2) TM Slim Saidi, President, ESCF Club, Area 22, Division B suggested to consider, from next time onwards, the option of circulating the budget to all council members in advance. Sunil Kottarathil, DTM acknowledged the suggestion for consideration from next time.
- 3) TM Evita Vegas, VP Education, Emirates Group Toastmasters, Area 32, Division I suggested to utilize the latest technology such as Skype to conduct council meetings to reduce travel expenses. Sunil Kottarathil, DTM acknowledged the suggestion and mentioned that the minimum number of in-person meetings prescribed by TI are mandatory.
- 4) TM Srinivasan Babu, Area 8 Director, Division D suggested to consider travel re-imburement to Area Directors who visit clubs located geographically as far as 200 to 250 kms. Sunil Kottarathil, DTM acknowledged the suggestion and assured a case based study & approvals based on TI financial policy.

As there were no further discussion, TM Samar Semaan, President, Petrofac Toastmasters Club, Area 29, Division I proposed to close the motion.

Voting was in favour and the motion was adopted.



- “DTAC 2018 Update” was presented by Gurbinder Singh Punn, DTM.

He updated the members about the progress of the DTAC 2018 preparations.

He also announced the DTAC 2018 core committee as follows:

- DTM Gurbinder Punn – DTAC Chairman
- DTM Saleh Khamyasi – DTAC Vice Chairman
- DTM Robin Anand – Education Chair
- DTM Cyprian Misquith – Finance Chair
- DTM Sabah Al Ismaily – Hospitality Chair
- TM Saiju Victor – Marketing Chair
- TM Vimil Vijayaseenan- Registration Chair
- DTM Ramesh Gopal – Events Chair

He unveiled the venue of the DTAC 2018, The Grand Millennium Hotel, Muscat.

He also announced that the Early Bird offer of USD 150 will end today (20th October 2017).

He added that those who would like to volunteer for roles can register online.

Team Building / Creativity Exercise

- Saju Varghese, DTM conducted a Team Building Exercise titled “Capitalize”.
 - All Attendees were divided into 8 Groups of 14 to 15 members each.
 - A Scenario was presented to them to discuss, analyse and suggest strategies.
 - Each team got a Kit which had a Game Rule Sheet and a Pick Sheet/ Card to mark their suggestions/ priorities.
 - Each Team at the end of their allocated 15 minutes, were given 2 minutes to present their strategy report.
 - All the teams participated with energy and enthusiasm.
 - There were 6 observers under the captaincy of Nagabhushan Balaji, DTM to identify the winner.

Sharing First Quarter Experience – Division Directors

- Division D Director TM G. Kumar shared the success story of conducting COT as a special event (Any routine event can be converted into an interesting special event) and experience of Toast-Fest, an event organised to promote toastmasters.
- Division J Director Nelson Menezes, DTM shared the success story of team work (Conducting events jointly by Divisions B,F,I & J) which resulted in effective cost and resource management. The events brought members closer.
- A Prayer /Lunch Break was observed from 12:15 pm to 01:15 pm.



Panel Discussion, Pathways Q&A

- Panel Discussion on Club / Area / Division / District affairs and Q & A on “Pathways” was conducted by the Pathways Chief Ambassador and Past Region 11 Advisor, Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM, Past District Director Sujit Sukumaran, DTM and District Director Sunil Kottarathil, DTM.

DTM Uma Radhakrishnan gave clarifications to all the questions related to Pathways and some of her clarifications captured are as follows:

- **Question : Should we switch to the Pathways track as soon as it starts?**

Answer : It all depends on you, where you stand at present in your current program. If you are on CC, you have another 30 projects to complete. Since we have only a two year transition period, it may be advisable to switch to Pathways especially if you think it will be difficult to finish those 30 projects in the specified time.

But, if you are on an ACB, or an ACS, and if you are confident that you can complete the traditional program before it is phased off, it is advisable to continue with the current program.

- **Question : When should the clubs switch to pathways?**

Answer : Until March 2018, we will have to follow the traditional program. From March 2018, both the traditional program and Pathways can go parallel, if the club opts so.

- **Question : Will there be a change in the Leadership roles in Pathways?**

Answer : The leadership roles in pathways remains the same.

- **Question : In the event we are not able to complete the DTM in the traditional track, will the certifications like ACB, ACS we have earned so far, disappear when the Traditional track phases out?**

Answer : All the completed awards will be on record and will be available with TMI and can also be viewed in your profile. Migration to Pathways is not possible since the two programs are different. Your progress toward awards in the traditional education program won't be transferable to Pathways because the projects and structure of learning in the programs are different.

- **Question : What happens to DCP points when Pathways is rolled out, especially when both the tracks run parallelly ?**

Answer : Like the traditional program where we have 10 points which has 6 educational goals, Pathways also has 6 educational goals. During the transition period when both tracks run parallel, we can count points towards goals achieved from both the tracks. For eg: 3 educational points from the traditional track and 3 points from the pathways track. Your club can choose to satisfy the six educational goals using the Pathways criteria, the current criteria or a mix of goals from both programs.



- **Question : Once the pathways is launched, new clubs will follow pathways track only, will the DCP points will be counted only from that track? What about a reinstate member who joins the club.**
Answer : She said she will reclarify this point with TI and will revert back.
- **Question : Will the titles earned like DTM will be dropped once Pathways track is fully installed ?**
Answer : Titles earned will remain intact.

Group Activity – Case Studies

- District Trio - Sunil Kottarathil, DTM, Nagabhushan Balaji, DTM and Valsakumar P Menon, DTM conducted the Group Activity
 - All attendees were divided into 9 groups.
 - A Situational case of a challenge faced by club, was presented to each group to discuss, brainstorm, analyse and suggest solutions.
 - The topics given to the groups were :
 - ✓ The Immediate Past President insists the club to function in his way
 - ✓ There is no enthusiasm among members
 - ✓ Guests do not come back
 - ✓ Members are not interested to take up meeting roles
 - ✓ Senior toastmasters do not attend club meetings
 - ✓ Club meetings are attended by less than 10 members only
 - ✓ Our club missed SMEDLEY Award. We want to plan better for Talk up Toastmasters Award in February.
 - ✓ We want to convert Club Contest into an Open House Showcase event – to attract more members.
 - ✓ Our Club is just chartered. We want to be Distinguished this year.
 - Each Group at the end of their allocated 30 minutes presented a 3 minute report. In addition to the ideas presented by the group, audience also were given a chance to add couple of more solutions for each case.
- A Tea Break was observed from 03:50 pm to 04:00 pm.

Debate Session – International Director Morag Mathieson DTM

International Director, Region 11 Morag Mathieson, DTM conducted a 60 minute Debate session followed by educational presentation on “Membership Growth Vs Retention”.

Resolution: “It is resolved that membership growth is a more important factor in sustaining healthy Toastmasters clubs than membership retention”

Debate: 4 speakers each have 4-6 minutes to speak, 2 for the resolution and 2 against.



Team for the motion : TM Rajae (Jordan) and TM Samar Semaan (Dubai)

Team against the motion : TM Umakanth (Abu Dhabi) and TM Srinivasan Babu (Oman)

One member presented the summary against the resolution (2 minutes)

One member presented the summary for the resolution (2 minutes)

After the debate, audience voted for the team who were against the motion.

Awards and Recognition

District Trio presented the awards to the winners and recognition to the members.

- PQD Awards: Nagabhushan Balaji, DTM recognised the new DTMs and Triple Crown winners with pins.
- CGD Awards: Valsakumar P Menon, DTM presented ribbons to Lead & Win Award winning clubs and Certificates to Smedley Award winning clubs. Ribbon and certificates were handed over to the Division team for distribution among the member clubs.
- PR Award: Manmohan Sreedhar, DTM, recognized TM Rasheed Palliyalil for the exceptional services rendered as media coordinator.
- District Trio presented a memento to the International Director, Region 11 Morag Mathieson, DTM as a token of appreciation.
- Team Building Exercise winners were announced by Nagabhushan Balaji, DTM, and the winning team was awarded by Saju Varghese, DTM.
- TM Nawas Kanjirappully, VP Education, ECC Toastmasters Club, Area 25, Division F won the lucky draw.
- TM Ramesh Babu Menon, Area 21 Director, Division B received the gift for being the “first online registrant of District Council meeting”.

Old Business

District Director Sunil Kottarathil, DTM announced that there are no old business for discussion as District 105 is a new reformed District.

New Business

- Sunil Kottarathil, DTM put forward the need to decide on the venue of DTAC 2019.

Main Motion: TM Ojie Solitario, VP – Education, Amman International Toastmasters Club, Area 3, Division A moved a motion to discuss and finalize DTAC 2019 venue during the District Excom meeting which will be held in January 2018. The motion was seconded by TM Ramesh Babu Menon, Area 21 Director, Division B.



As there were no further discussion, the motion was closed. Voting was in favour and the motion was adopted. The council agreed to accept the decision by District Excom on DTAC 2019 venue.

- Sunil Kottarathil, DTM proposed to conduct the next Council meeting on 4th May 2018 along with DTAC 2018.

Main Motion: TM G. Kumar, Division D Director, moved a motion to conduct the next Council meeting on 4 May 2018 along with DTAC. The motion was seconded by TM Srinivasan Babu, Area 8 Director, Division D.

Discussion Points:-

TM Zuhair Mihyar, Division A Director suggested to conduct the next council meeting before DTAC 2018. Sunil Kottarathil, DTM mentioned that the suggestion has been noted, however we need to follow the rules & regulation to conduct the council meeting during the annual conference, as there are important year end businesses to be taken care of, including elections.

As there were no further discussion, the motion was closed. Voting was in favour and the motion was adopted.

- Sunil Kottarathil, DTM proposed to close the council business session in the absence of any other new business points.

Members were in favour to close the business session of First District 105 Council Meeting.

Feedback

Sunil Kottarathil, DTM announced that an Online Feedback Survey will be circulated among the members by the District Administration Manager.

Adjournment of the Meeting

Sunil Kottarathil, DTM thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 06:10 pm. He requested all the attendees to join the Photo Session.