



<Division A May 5, 2018

Membership

Membership building has been a focus across the Division and 82 new members have been signed equal to one third of the base membership. This growth has been spread around the division with 11 of 15 clubs achieving at least one membership goal and three of these achieving two membership goals and beyond.

Unfortunately two clubs are close but not able to make the minimum eight members to be a club a good standing. Consideration is being given to exchanging coaches between two low enrolment clubs. It is expected that this will be beneficial by refocusing clubs and coaches on planning for success.

Club Officer Training

About 50 of club officers in District A completed training in the second half of the year. The percentage was higher in the urban areas and much lower in the rural parts of the Division. As I have mentioned before, a major part of Division A is at a distance of three to six hours from Edmonton and two to three hours from major centres like Grande Prairie. This year I have tried to take the district activities to them rather than expecting clubs to make the journey to Edmonton. In Dec. to Feb, two club officer trainings were held in north and the Spring Speech Contest was held in Grande Prairie. I personally visited and discussed issues with several of the rural clubs. It is hoped that with the new program, Toastmasters will start to allow distance training to provide these clubs with better support.

Education Achievements

The Division has seen many new educational achievements. Notable among these is Michael Szpreglweski who received his DTM. Other members are approaching their DTMs and several members are considering completing their DTMs before the 2020 deadline. A coaching group is being established to assist them. If others in the district would like to work with us on this initiative please contact me.

Business Visits

Business visits were made with good contacts made with some organizations. The Chamber of Commerce in Grande Prairie could be a significant connection for Toastmasters if a reasonable price membership was obtained. Grande Prairie University also showed considerable interest in make connections with existing clubs for its students. An employer in the Whitecourt area has agreed to send staff to the local club and may be interested in establishing a program for all his staff.

In summary, there is lots of potential for Toastmasters in Division A which clubs are successfully pursuing.

Respectively submitted, Dan McCosh, Division A Director