District 50 Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 5, 2026
Online via Zoom
Time: 9:00am – 12:07pm

I. **Call to Order:** Logistics Manager Nadum Charles, PM5 called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, welcomed all of the participants, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **District Mission:** Club Growth Director Debra Cadet, PI5 reviewed the District Mission: "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence."

III. **Welcome and Introduction:** District Director Walter Price, DTM welcomed all of the participants, reviewed meeting procedures (remain muted unless recognized, state name and role, participation limited to eligible members), and proceeded with the introduction of the Credentials Committee Chair.

IV. **Credentials Committee Report:** Credentials Committee Chair Mary McClendon, DTM, PDG, PDD confirmed that 40/46 voting delegates registered for the meeting, and 27 were present at the time the meeting started; the number present exceeded the 16 required for quorum. For the District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, a quorum is confirmed if 51% are registered for online attendance; quorum has been met and the meeting can continue as planned. The following participants were later confirmed to be in attendance during some or all of the meeting:

Walter Price, District Director
Shane Gilmore, Program Quality Director
Debra Cadet, Club Growth Director
Paloma Schmidt, Public Relations Manager
Rhonda Bunte, Finance Manager
Naomi Lawler, Administration Manager
Denise Castille, Immediate Past District Director
Nancy Manning, Eastern Division Director
Angelica Rodriguez, Frontier Division Director
Don Teague, Metro Division Director
Clint Copeland, Ozark Division Director
Sulabh Sharma, Plains Division Director
Cindy Horton, Southern Division Director
Joan Bradee, Town North Division Director
Ajay Ghimire, Area Director
Bate Bate, Area Director
Godfree Adiges, Area Director
Jolene Steinbicer, Area Director
Kelley Webb, Area Director
Krysten Davis, Area Director
Lawrence Traub, Area Director
LeNelle Thompson, Area Director
Linda Avington, Area Director
Mary Torno, Area Director
Patricia Guerra, Area Director
Phylis Stromile, Area Director
Rebecca Walker, Area Director
Sheetal Tobin, Area Director
Tommy Kenyon, Zoom Master (non-voting member)
Roger Priitchett, Parliamentarian (non-voting presenter)
Mary McClendon, Credentials Chair (non-voting presenter)

Nadum Charles, Logistics Manager (non-voting presenter)
Monnica Rose, Historian (non-voting presenter)
Tim Lemon, 2025-2026 Audit Chair (non-voting presenter)
Nancy Robinson-Lott (non-voting presenter)
Joyce Biddle (non-voting member)
Dewey Magar (non-voting member)
Breana Love (non-voting member)
Jen Hoch (non-voting member)
Breana Love (non-voting member)
Adeyinka Yarbough (non-voting member)
Willie Johnson (non-voting member)

V. Review and Adoption of Agenda: Walter Price, DTM presented the proposed agenda for the meeting which was made available on the D50 website. As there were no amendments, the agenda was adopted without objection.

Proposed Agenda

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
District Mission Statement
Welcome and Introduction
Confirm Quorum
Review Agenda
Roberts Rules of Order – 6 Steps to a Motion
Proposal – Virtual Meeting Guidelines
Approval of Minutes from DEC Meeting from 9/16/2025
Introduction of 2025-2026 Audit Team Chair
2025-2026 Audit Results
Introduction of Proposal
Credentials Chair Explains the Voting Process
Proposal – Ozark Division Name Change
Proposal – District Level Speech Contests
Proposal – 2026-2027 District Budget
Proposal – District Success Plan
Proposal - Annual Business Meeting Format

VI. Review - Roberts Rules of Order: District 50 Parliamentarian Roger Pritchett, DTM reviewed the six steps to handling motions under Robert's Rules of Order.

VII. Review and Adoption of Minutes from Previous DEC Meeting: Naomi Lawler, DTM presented the minutes that were received from the previous DEC meeting 9/16/2025; these minutes were made available on the District 50 website. As there were no amendments proposed during the meeting, the minutes were adopted without objection.

VIII. **Proposal – Virtual Meeting Guidelines Adoption:** Parliamentarian Roger Pritichett, DTM, PDG discussed the purpose of establishing virtual meeting guidelines. The main motion was voted on. A motion was made and seconded to limit debate to 10 minutes total and one minute per speaker with the District Director (DEC Chair) being able to extend time. The main motion establishing Virtual Meeting Guidelines (including the adopted debate limits was voted on with accommodations for visually impaired and members with technical difficulties.

Eastern Division Director Nancy Manning proposed an amendment to extend total debate to 20 minutes; Metro Division Director Don Teague seconded. The amendment was voted on. The result of the vote was 16 yes, 8 no, and 8 abstain. The amendment passed – *debate limit set to 20 minutes total, one minute per speaker.*

After voting for the amendment, the main motion was restated with the amendment and the vote was conducted. The result of the vote was 16 yes, 8 no, and 8 abstain to *adopt the Virtual Meeting Guidelines with the amended debate limit set to 20 minutes total, one minute per speaker.*

IX. **2025-2026 Audit Results:** Audit Team Chair Tim Lemon presented the 2025-2026 Audit Committee report.

Highlights of the report:

- Documentation (bills, receipts, bank statements, and reserve statements) were uploaded to the District's Google Drive.
- The District continues to follow best practices: proper approvals obtained for expenses over $500.00; payments managed via Concur, and requests submitted within 30 days to minimize delays.
- Year-end profit and loss adhere to Toastmasters International Audit Committee guidelines; recognition give to Ms. Jay Eripilla (District Finance Manager) and Jose Zarita for audit support

X. **Proposal – Ozark Division Name Change:** Area 73 Director LeNelle Thompson stated the proposal to rename Ozark Division to "Diamond Division," citing broader member input, Crater of Diamonds symbolism, and club geography outside of Ozark County, inclusivity, and alignment with the Arkansas state flag (diamond in the center of the flag). Additional input for this proposal was provided by guest Area Director Division B District 43 Nancy Robinson-Lott Area 73. Director LeNelle Thompson acknowledge that any changed approved by the DEC will be submitted to the District Council for vote, and that the result of that vote will be sent to the Alignment Committee and then forwarded to Toastmasters International.
The motion was made by LeNelle Thompson, the vote was seconded by Debra Cadet. The result of the vote was 71% in favor and 29% against. *The motion passed to submit the Ozark Division Name Change request to the District Council.*

XI. **Proposal – District Level Speech Contests:** Program Quality Director Shane Gilmore proposed Fall online Speech contest that will be open to all members with no prerequisites and will terminate at District level; the contest will be scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2026, with the spring contest consisting of Humorous and International Speech contest.
The motion was made by Shane Gilmore; the vote was seconded by Debra Cadet. *The result of the vote was 92% in favor and 8% against. The motion passed to move forward with the District Level Speech Contests for the Fall.*

Proposal – 2026-2027 District Budget: Finance Manager Rhonda Bunte begin to share the information relative to the proposal for the District Budget. Eastern Division Director Nancy Manning was recognized with a point of information before the presentation commenced and made a proposal to table the discussion of the budget until the District Council meeting stating that the budget had not been seen.
Motion to table: DEC Chair Walter Price stated that the DEC could cease to vote on it but the information could be reported for the benefit of all of the other participants in attendance. Discussion continued with Eastern Division Director Nancy Manning stating that as all the questions and actions related to the budget are postponed until the District Council can hear that discussion, she will withdraw the motion about not allowing the budget information to be presented, and will later present a revised motion after Rhonda makes her presentation. DEC Chair Walter Price shared that according to Toastmasters International, the budget is presented during the DEC meeting and voted on and then is presented to the District Council meeting for a vote. The DEC Chair confirmed that the motion to table the budget was being withdrawn, and Eastern Division Director Nancy Manning confirmed – *motion to table withdrawn.*
Finance Manager Rhonda Bunte proceeded with the presentation on the 2026-2027 District Budget.
Highlights of the report:

- Expense summary provided
- Membership dues revenue of $86,291
- Events projected to break even per Toastmasters International policy

- Conference and the October and November events are the revenue; the same with any fundraising events or the District store
- Marketing outside of Toastmasters is 5%
- Guidance from the prior years' budget are taken into consideration when preparing the current year's budget.
- The proposed budget was submitted to Toastmasters International and is pending acceptance; it is currently under review by Toastmasters International and pending approval.

A motion was made by Rhonda Bunte to advance the budget to the District Council meeting; the vote was seconded by Debra Cadet. Discussion beganned with Eastern Division Director Nancy Manning who was acknowledged by the Chair with a point of information asking when will the budget and the associated narratives be shared so the DEC has an opportunity to review. DEC Chair Walter Price confirmed that the WebMaster will post the summary to the website. Contact will be made with Toastmasters International to confirm if the narratives are to be posted in addition to the summary. Discussion ended. Additional notes: Administration Manager Naomi Lawler shared that the District Council meeting mandatory postings are scheduled for posting on 9/5/2026. The finance summary and any documentation required for that posting will be made available. Contact will be made with Toastmasters International to verify if it is mandatory to post the finance narratives or just the summary. Discussion concluded. *The result of the vote was 87% in favor and 13% against. The motion passed to move forward with the presenting the budget to the District Council.*

XII. **Proposal – District Success Plan:** District Director Walter Price provided an overview of the District Success Plan and discussed Trio collaboration, Public Relations Manager involvement, and Toastmasters International submission requirements. The District Success Plan, Communication Plan, and Marketing Plans are due by the September 30th. Weekly Trio meetings take place on Mondays (with holiday exception). Club growth targets: last year increased from 115 to 118 clubs; current count 138. Select Distinguished membership payment target: 5,555. Strategies include tiered support (green/yellow/red), touchpoint reporting, director engagement, training, recognition programs, post-renewal evaluations, best practices, Speechcraft, and open houses.

The motion was made by Shane Gilmore, the vote was seconded by Debra Cadet. The result of the vote was 90% in favor and 10% against. The motion passed to move forward with the District Success plan approved for publication on website and sharing with the District Council.

XIII. **Proposal – Annual Business Meeting Format:** Administration Manager Naomi Lawler presented the proposal to determine the Annual Business Meeting format to determine if the meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format or a virtual format. The motion was made by Naomi Lawler to have the annual meeting done in a virtual format; the vote was seconded by Nancy Manning. The result of the vote was 78% in favor of virtual format and 22% in favor of hybrid format. *The motion passed for the Annual Business Meeting to be conducted in a virtual format.*

Additional Notes from District Director Walter Price:
Area Success Plan completion recognized (Areas 14, 33, 41, 42, 71, 72).
Renewals urged early to avoid system issues.
District Council Meeting, Saturday September 19, 2026 at 9am
Next DEC Meeting, Thursday, Decembre 3, 2026 at 7pm.
Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.

Minutes submitted by Naomi Lawler, DTM – Administration Manager