

## Email to the Expanded Committee

3 September 2015

Subj: District Reformation (Split) Committee – Minutes from 8/31/15 Meeting

Attendees: John Angiolillo, Jill Briscoe, Lorrie, Briscoe, Dan Cossack, Jeanne Cassidy, Norm Cook, Marsha DeGon, Alanda Dyer, Lou Ann Frederick, Bob Hudack, Pan Kao, Ligia Molina

This conference call began with a technical issue, which kept some team members from joining in. Not everyone was able to dial in, even with alternative call information. Although I had expected a couple of members to miss this meeting, it seemed most of the members from prior calls were unable to join us.

The plan for this meeting was to: 1, review the three district split options proposed by Bob Hudack; 2, select one that would be publicized to the membership in Sept/Oct and proposed at the Fall Business Conference and 3, define the Communication Plan.

Before we could discuss the existing three proposals before us, Lou Ann proposed a 4<sup>th</sup> option – one that would be performance-based and extend over a three-year period (minimum). Most of the discussion turned to this potential 4<sup>th</sup> option, which if chosen, would not require a vote in the Fall. Instead, it would result in the Committee's Report to the membership with recommendations for 1: using the term "realignment" ("split" is too harsh) and 2. performance benchmarks, monitoring and revisiting the district reformation (split) after 3 consecutively successful years (criteria TBD).

Since this was such a departure from the original intent of the meeting, I offered to pull together minutes which all members could read and respond to quickly. Admittedly, it has taken me a few days to process all this new data and to talk to different members about various aspects of the Monday night call.

Therefore, I want to revisit some basic tenets:

1. Why reform/split the District?
  - Easier workload for Top District Leaders
  - Relieve some of the workload having to lead 200+ clubs
  - Venues would be easier to locate for smaller events
2. District resources not spread so thin – volunteers' time especially
3. More top district leadership opportunities
4. "Inner Circle" – Splitting the district would allow more of our members to move into the higher leadership roles, where they have felt being too far north/south has been a detriment to serving - not distance, but outside the "inner circle"

Thank you for reaching out to experienced TM leaders in other divisions to increase the committee membership. Some members represent a division while others are not tied to a specific division but are strong advisors , vital to this process. See the updated team status:

Note: Shading for D100 (B, E, H); Partial with parentheses (C, D)' no shading for Founders District.

| Div               | Division Representative and or Rep / Advisors |
|-------------------|---|
| Committee members | Colette Gardner, Lauren Kelly, Linda Ulrich   |
| A                 | Mary Berg                                     |
| B                 | Ligia Molina, Lorrie Briscoe, Jill Briscoe    |
| (C)               | Open  |
| (D)               | Alanda Dyer                                   |
| E                 | Alfred Herzing, Norm Cook                     |
| F                 | Bob Hudack                                    |
| G                 | Gwen Earle                                    |
| H                 | Open  |

1. The updated FAQs are provided for your review and comment. Please look at them carefully since they will be used for getting information out to our members.
2. Thanks to Bob, we have 3 potential options for the split. Please ensure you study the 3 options. Since only one option will be submitted for approval, we need to determine which of these three is in the best interest of our members;
  - A. 22/North and South;
  - B. Bristol/North and South;
  - C. McFadden/ North and South.

The link below gives the statistics, figures and maps for each option.

<https://sites.google.com/site/hudacktm/tm/splitproposalsstats>

3. Next conference call and agenda:
  - a. Conference Call: Mon, Aug 31, 2015 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
Phone dial-in: United States: +1 (224) 501-9412 - Access Code: 645-047-797
  - b. Agenda:  
Welcome new committee members; discuss communication plan and FAQs; status action items.

NOTE: Not everyone will be able to make conference calls, so it's critical we keep each other informed through other means. We need to develop and implement a Communications Plan that will take into account communication within the team and within the district. We will discuss the elements of the plan tomorrow night and implement the plan shortly afterward.

Thank you for your continued service to the District and fellow Toastmasters.  
Warm regards,

jc  
Jeanne Cassidy, DTM  
949-444-9310

### **Founder's District Split Proposal FAQ**

**Q: Why should we consider splitting Founder's District?**

A: In comparison to the other Districts within the Toastmasters International organization, Founder's District is one of the largest with 223 clubs. The workload in managing such a large district for the top District officers is significant. It has also deterred good candidates from running for higher office. Splitting the District would reduce the workload of top District officers and encourage more members to step up into the leadership roles.

**Q: If we don't do it, will the split be done for us?**

A: Article XII: Districts, Section 1: How Established – states:

*“For the purpose of efficient administration, the Board of Directors of Toastmasters International is authorized to divide the territory covered by member clubs into districts, or form new districts and establish the boundaries thereof. Each district shall be designated by a number. Each district shall be divided into areas, each under the direction of an area governor. The district may organize areas together into divisions, each under the direction of a division governor. Each district shall abide by the District Administrative Bylaws issued, and modified from time to time, by the Board of Directors.”*

Additionally, on page 168, Policy 7.0, District Structure, Section 2 - District Formation, B IV states:  
*“The Board may form, consolidate, or reform districts on its own initiative for the best interests of Toastmasters International and the clubs.”*

Reforming the District is a likely eventuality. We have the opportunity to provide our input now. As leaders closest to the workings of the District, we have the best vantage point to position the reformed districts for continued growth and success.

**Q: Who can vote on this proposal to split the District?**

A: The voting members of the District Council which includes the Club Presidents and VP Educations (or their proxy), the District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Public Relations Manager, Administration Manager, Finance Manager, the Division Directors and the Area Directors.

**Q: What happens to the name Founder's District?**

A: Per Toastmasters International, and the Founder's District Charter, the name Founder's District is given to the home District of Smedley Club Chapter #1. As of right now, this club is located to the south of the 22 freeway proposed boarder, and therefore will remain with the original District. Members who will be in the New District (D100), will ALWAYS be able to claim that they came from Founder's District.

**Q: How will the New District be funded?**

A: Per Toastmasters International Protocol 7.0 District Structure: At the time of the split, all funds either in Founder's District Bank Accounts or in the World Headquarters Founder's Reserve Account will be distributed amongst the two districts based on the % of member payments made by member clubs in each reformed District in the program year immediately preceding the reformation (split.)

**Q: Will the New District have any support from Founder's District?**

A: When the District splits – support for BOTH of the Districts will come from the Regional Advisor, International Director, and past leaders within the Districts. Because of the close geography, past leaders will also be available to help both Districts.

(The new District will have many past leaders including a Past International President as members.)

**Q: What is the process for the split as it relates to the leaders of the Districts?**

A: If the proposal to move forward with the split is approved at the 7 Nov 2015 Business Meeting, at the following Founder's Spring Conference, one District Director would be elected for the 2016-2017 term. But instead of one set of secondary officers (Program Quality Director and Club Growth Director), the District would elect two sets - one for Founder's and one for the new District. Then, for the 2016-2017 term, there would be 5 top officers in Founders. Division Directors would still be elected and Area Directors would still be appointed by the District Director. The following year (2017-2018) the split would officially take place with each District electing a District Director and other officers.