



## **Toastmasters International District 47**

### **Fall 2025-2026 District Council Meeting**

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**

#### **Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, by District 47 Logistics Manager, Kenny Davin, DTM. Instrumental renditions of the US and Bahamas National Anthems were played. The Logistics Manager stated the Toastmasters District Mission before introducing District 47 Director Ancin Munnings.

#### **Welcome**

District Director Munnings welcomed everyone in attendance at the Fall 2025-2026 District Council Meeting online meeting, both on Zoom and Facebook Live, highlighting that the meeting brings to life the shared commitment. The purpose is to discuss, deliberate, and decide on the future of District 47, reflecting the aspirations of our members. He expressed thanks to the members of the District Executive Committee for their drive to assist Clubs, and to Club leaders, for their active involvement in promoting club success. He gave specific instructions for voting, stressing that only voting delegates can participate in discussion.

The officials for the meeting were: Timer – District 47 Logistics Manager, Kenny Davin, DTM; Chat Monitor – District 47 Administration Manager, Denison Balfour, DTM; Credentials Committee Chair – Austen Canonica, DTM and Parliamentarian – Wence Martin, DTM.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was sent in advance by email and posted to the District 47 Website. There were no amendments to the agenda, and it was approved.

#### **Inspirational Moment**

The Inspirational Moment was delivered by Past District Governor, Anthony Longley, DTM. He first congratulated all elected and appointed District Officers and Club Officers, expressing gratitude to the 100 volunteers who stretch themselves to assist with

properly managing the District. The inspiration focused on the Toastmasters International District Mission to “build new clubs” pointing out that to build clubs we must invite guests, then deliver on the product with properly planned and effectively executed meetings. These actions inspire guests to become members. He also spoke of the key words in the Club Mission – supportive, positive, experience, to achieve, greater self-confidence and growth. The indication was for this to happen clubs must focus on building healthy club membership to help members grow. Distinguished Toastmaster Longley closed with the Toastmasters International Core Values – Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence.

### **Credentials Committee Report**

Past District Director Austen Canonica, DTM presented the Credentials Committee Report. He explained the composition of the District Executive Committee and the District Executive Council and referenced the Quorum. The voting system was outlined. The presence of a Quorum was confirmed.

### **Voting Procedures**

District Parliamentarian Wence Martin, DTM explained the voting procedures. Highlighting that comments will be limited to one vote per person, and members are allowed to speak only once on a motion. If comments are repeated, the District Director can end the discussion.

### **Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2025 Annual Business Meeting**

Minutes of the April 26, 2025 Annual Business Meeting were distributed by email to District Executive Council Members and posted on the District 47 website. They were also reviewed and approved by the Minutes Review Committee. With no further corrections from the District Executive Council, the Minutes were approved as distributed.

### **Confirmation of District Leaders for 2025–2026**

District Director Munnings stated DEC appointments made since the April Business Meeting, which were shared in advance, and he shared the same on screen, noting that appointments must be ratified by the District Executive Council. With no objections, the officers were confirmed in their respective positions.

### **Approval of Proposed District 47 2025–2026 Budget**

District Finance Manager Maurice Fuller explained his role as steward of District finances and commended the District Trio for the detailed work performed in outlining the 2025–2026 Budget, which needed little correction. He presented the budget, as approved, in consultation with the District Trio. A summary page of the budget was made available prior, and Finance Manager Fuller explained the summary page before going into details of each line item.

District Director Munnings moved that the District 47 2025–2026 Budget be accepted as presented. A discussion on the Proposed Budget was opened for six minutes.

- Andrew Bern, DTM, VPE Club 3278, asked about the projected financial impact of the pending merge of Districts 47 and 48 as of July 1, 2026. District Director Munnings responded that since the merger is related to the 2026-2027 Toastmasters

Year, there is no projected financial impact for the current Toastmasters Year. Finance Manager Fuller added that every year the budget is based on the number of members so the merger will increase available funds.

- Steven Harwood, VPE Club 1499739 asked how to distinguish between public relations and outside marketing. District Director Munnings responded that Public Relations is generated through members. Outside marketing is operated by the Club Growth Director, mostly through social media avenues, focused on potential members.

- Evelyn Benson, DTM, VPE - The Landing and Miami Advanced Toastmasters Club, asked about reducing the travel and lodging and line items through technology. District Director Munnings stated that virtual options are being explored, however, there are expenses for training and club visits. Finance Manager Fuller highlighted that DEC travel is greatly reduced years, but the cost of travel has increased and in some cases travel distance for the District Trio has increased.

- Past District Director Barbara Strasdas, DTM stressed that money should be spent from members instead of returning much funds annually to Toastmasters and travel should be increased. District Director Munnings supported this statement highlighting the value of in-person meetings to camaraderie.

The District 47 2025–2026 Budget was approved with a majority vote of 110.

### **Final Audit Committee Report**

Audit Committee Chair, Barbara Strasdas, DTM presented the End of Year Audit Committee Report. January 1 – June 30, 2025. The Audit Committee comprises Barbara Strasdas, CPA, DTM, Chair; Laura Friedman, CPA, and Kamal Abdulah, CPA. She reported that they met separately and reviewed separate parts of the 6-month documentation. Reiterating that although not all guidelines were followed, review of all transactions are within purpose to support the Mission of the District. The End of Year Audit was completed and submitted to Toastmasters International by the August 31, 2025 deadline. There was no need for motion to accept the report.

- Andrew Bern, DTM VPE Club 3278, asked about the return on investment for Facebook advertising and how the ROI is measured, to determine if to maintain or redirect funds. District Director Munnings advised that such information is not required for the Audit Report. District Director Munnings noted that it appeared successful, and Immediate Past District Director confirmed its success as over 1,500 new members were added.

- Evelyn Benson, DTM, VPE - The Landing and Miami Advanced Toastmasters Club, commended the Audit Committee Chair on the detailed report and for highlighting that procedures were not followed, without hostility, while promoting accountability and integrity.

### **Program Quality Report**

The Program Quality Report was delivered by Program Quality Director Susan Vineta, DTM. She first introduced and recognized the Program Quality Team. She pointed out

that in the previous three years District 47 achieved Smedley Distinguished status, noting that the expectations are for the same level in 2025–2026, for which 89+ clubs must reach Distinguished Status. Five clubs already have the Distinguished Status goals but must meet membership requirements on June 30, 2026. A total of 404 Education Levels are submitted to date. For TLI and COT, 89% of clubs met the First-Round goal. With 10 days left to submit Club Success Plans, 2/3 of District 47 Clubs have submitted. Everyone was reminded that the Club Success Plan is a requirement for participation in the Club Success Plan. Contest Season officially begins in January, with three contests moving beyond the club. Contests may be in-person, hybrid, or virtual at the club level. Area, Division, and District Contests will be in-person. Official dates for contests at each level were provided. The first and second place finishers of Clubs in Areas with four clubs or less, advance to the area level. Divisions B, D, F and I – where there are four areas or less. PQD Vineta summarized Program Quality Incentives, which will be provided by email and posted to the District Website. Tropical Eloquence was revealed as the District 47 2025-2026 Conference Theme, with in-person events hosted at Marriott Coral Springs Hotel and Convention Center, April 24-26, 2026.

### **Club Growth Report**

The Club Growth Update was delivered by Club Growth Director Oris Martin, DTM. She outlined that the Club Growth Team is charged with building new clubs, by seeking club leads, and helping clubs with low membership to increase members. She reported that two clubs have filed charter paperwork – FIU and The Town of Southwest Ranches. Some club leads were inherited from the previous administration. Demo Meetings are scheduled for Miami and Belle Glade, both in October. and Club Coaches were appointed. Up to September 19, there were 1,718 membership payments. The Membership Base is 6,738, which must be added to, for the Distinguished Program. Ending last year at 148 Clubs, to qualify for Smedley Distinguished Status, 12 clubs must be added. Four Club Coaches were recently appointed – two each to two clubs, Jazwares Toastmasters and Women in Construction. Club Growth Director Martin also summarized District Club Growth Incentives, including those for Club Coaches, Clubs qualifying for the Smedley, Talk Up Toastmasters and Beat the Clock Membership Programs. There is an additional incentive for clubs holding an Open House during the Membership Building Programs.

### **Wrap Up**

District Director Munnings gave a summary, thanked the presenters for sharing and thanked everyone for attending.

### **Adjournment**

District Director Munnings announced adjournment of the meeting at 11:50 am.