

**DISTRICT 81P – Caribbean Toastmasters
MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING
Held 2007 October 20
Buddy’s International Hotel – Georgetown, Guyana**

Present were:

Marlene Hall	District Governor
Donna Knight	Lt. Governor Education & Training
Ibrahim Lucas	District Public Relations Officer
Sonia Hunte	District Treasurer
Shirley Daley	District Secretary
Sonia Alexis	Division Governor C
Erich Rene	IP District Governor (IPDG)
Richelda Emanuel	Area Governor 5
Thelma Cooke Wallace	Area Governor 9
Abiola Inniss	Area Governor 12

Absent:

Joy Gittens	Lt. Governor Marketing
Karl Candelaria	Division Governor A
Joanna Prendergast	Division Governor B
Jean-Robert Lebrun	Division Governor D
Ann Marie Isaacs	Area Governor 1
Fabian Nobrega	Area Governor 2
Gabriela Jacoba	Area Governor 3
Irvine Roosburg	Area Governor 4
Dennis A. Dussault	Area Governor 6
Abiola Inniss	Area Governor 7
Corren Thomas	Area Governor 8
Tracey Coy	Area Governor 10
Michelle Hamilton Sucklal	Area Governor 11
Mary Thompson	Area Governor 13
Beverley Parris	Area Governor 14
Sandra Beauvil	Area Governor 16
Judith Drouyard	Area Governor 18

CALL TO ORDER

District Governor, Marlene Hall, CL who welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

Cicely Kellman, CTM delivered the invocation and the District Mission was read by Richelda Emmanuel.

EXCUSES FOR ABSENCE

Excuse for absence was received from Lt. Governor Marketing, Joy Gittens and Division Governors Prendergast, Lebrun and Candelaria.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Erich Rene, DTM confirmed that there were 78 eligible Clubs and 34 were represented. Of 29 eligible delegates-at-large, 9 were present. Based on the numbers, it was declared that there was no quorum. Therefore, no decision would be taken by voting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There being no amendments, the agenda was adopted and seconded by Robert Scott, DTM and Thelma Cooke Wallace, respectively.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Several members reported not having received the Minutes by email. Consequently, the Minutes was read, and adopted thereafter.

MATTERS ARISING

District Governor Hall reported that Conference Bid requirements documents were circulated to Division and Area Governors. St. Maarten had submitted its initial bid response and had started plans to host the 2008 May Conference. Trinidad & Tobago had accepted to host the 2008 October Conference and was in the process of appointing an organizing committee. They would submit their bid response as soon as the committee was finalized.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTED DISTRICT OFFICERS

In the absence of a quorum for the confirmation of appointed district officers, the meeting agreed to have the confirmation done by email and the Secretary was asked to circulate the current slate of Area Governors to the delegates for confirmation.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

This final report of the 2006-2007 Audit was previously circulated to delegates by email. They were asked to submit queries, if any. None was received.

ADOPTION OF DISTRICT BUDGET

The 2007-2008 District budget was circulated by email prior to the meeting. There were no queries and the document would be circulated for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Sonia Hunte had circulated her report by email and no queries were received. The District Governor (DG) expressed thanks to her and asked the delegates to take time to read the report with a view to understanding the amount of money that was made available to the District and how it could be spent.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT

The DG gave highlights from her report, which was previously circulated to delegates. She announced the District theme for 2007-2008, “*Caribbean Toastmasters: Excellence in Action*”. The District had also met the Distinguished District prerequisites set by WHQ.

LT. GOVERNOR EDUCATION & TRAINING REPORT

The Lt. Governor, Education & Training (LGE&T) presented her report for the period. It would be circulated by email in keeping with the required timeframe.

LT. GOVERNOR MARKETING

This report for the period 2007 July 1 – October 18 was read and presented by the Secretary in the absence of Lt. Governor, Marketing - Joy Gittens. It was brought to the attention of the meeting that based on the number of new Clubs reported in Division B, RBTT Toastmasters Club was missing. The DG shared that she wanted to encourage Toastmasters to do the work that was needed to grow the District and the eyes and ears would be the Area Governors.

ENDORSEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

The DG informed the membership of Erich Rene (IPDG) intention to run as International Director. As required by WHQ, the meeting endorsed Erich Rene's candidacy.

NEW BUSINESS

- A request was made to have the Agenda of the 2008 May Conference circulated earlier as this would help to better plan arrival and departure dates.
- There was a motion, which was moved by Robert Scott and seconded by Robert De Silva to have a “Toastmasters Model Meeting” as a part of the Conference Agenda. The objective being to demonstrate the standards including parliamentary procedures, which are used in conducting/facilitating a Toastmasters meeting. After much discussion, it was agreed that the request would be submitted through the LGE&T to the Planning Committee for consideration.
- Robert De Silva proposed that for future Conferences, an advisory regarding a country's health status be issued as he and other delegates only learned of “Malaria Alert” in Guyana a few days before their arrival. The DG responded by saying that that such an advisory could only be given by local health authorities and that Toastmasters with such concerns may check with their local health authorities and travel agents.

BIDS TO HOST 2008 DISTRICT CONFERENCES

2008 May Conference

St Maarten had submitted its bid to host the 2008 May Conference.

2008 October Conference

Trinidad and Tobago was in the process of forming its committee and would be submitting its bid to host the 2008 October Conference at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Area Governors were reminded to complete their visits for Term 1 by October 31 and start visits for Term 2 in January 2008.
- Statement of finances was to be submitted by Division and Area Governors on a monthly basis for inclusion in the District financial report due within 45 days of the end of each reporting month.
- The second round of Club Officer’s Training would be due to start in December and completed by February 28, 2008
- Training for 2008-2009 Club and District Officers would be held at the 2008 May Conference and completed no later than August 31, 2008.
- The next Conference would be held in St. Maarten, 2008 May
- International Speech Contest and Table Topic Contest would be held May 17, 2008, St. Maarten, Club contest were to be completed in March 2008 and Area Contests in April 2008.
- Trainers’ development program would continue all year round
- Membership building campaigns:
 - Talk Up Toastmasters Membership Drive (5 or more members) – Feb – March 2008
 - Beat the Clock–May 1- June 30 (clubs adding 5 or more new members)
 - Governor’s Membership Award (5 or more new members) - all year round.
- Election for 2008-2009 Club and District Officers were to be completed by first week in May 2008.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District Council will be held on Saturday, 2008 May 17 in St. Maarten.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Approval:

Chair	Marlene Hall	District Governor	_____
Secretary	Shirley Daley	Secretary	_____