

Toastmasters District 18
Division F Report
March 13, 2020

Current status

Directors in Areas 62, 63, and 64 are on track to complete their spring club visits. Area 61 may not be, because the area 61 director is experiencing both an overload at work and health issues. One possible solution is for the division director to substitute for the area director to make club visits.

The directors of Areas 62-64 held a combined table topics and international speech contest on February 29. A separate contest for Area 61, run by the division director, was held on March 8. We have at least one representative from each area and in some instances two for the Division F contests to be held March 15.

For the year we have held area and division contests and to TLI training sessions within the targeted times. All clubs in the division eventually submitted dues in the fall, although some were late. This is likely to recur in the spring, but we will be diligent in encouraging clubs to make their payments.

The division has held regular council calls, generally once every two weeks, and the attendance has been good. We have used these calls to plan events and address problems.

Progress toward meeting goals

While several clubs are on track to reach Distinguished status, the division as a whole probably will not. There are a number of clubs who could be distinguished except for meeting membership goals. This is something that should be worked on in the future.

The following goals have achieved enough goals to be Distinguished: Hopkins Toastmasters in Area 62, Baltimore VA Toastmasters in Area 63, SSA Club in Area 64. In addition, there are three clubs that have a chance to be Distinguished with some effort: Eloquent Toastmasters in Area 62 (3 goals achieved); T. Rowe Price Toastmasters in Area 63 (2 goals achieved); and Lifebridge Health Toastmasters in Area 64 (3 goals achieved). The first two of these clubs have no issues with membership; Lifebridge needs to get at least two new members in addition to goals. Some other clubs could achieve Distinguished status with a strong membership increase, including CSU Toastmasters in Area 63 and Lord Baltimoreans in Area 64.

Issues affecting progress

Looking longer term, there are two clubs in the division that have solid membership but have not achieved goals: Heard in the Herd in Area 61 and MDOT in Area 62. Heard in the Herd has 41 members but has achieved only one DCP goal.

There are also several clubs that are marginal and may not survive for long without substantial intervention. In addition to these, there are a few clubs that have enough membership and activity to continue but are not focused on goals for the clubs or their members. These clubs typically hold meetings that include only table topics sessions.

The coronavirus outbreak will likely diminish the amount of activity that occurs for the remainder of the Toastmasters year, but it is hard to predict the impact at this point.

Another issue that faces any division director or area director is the number of events to plan for over the course of a year. At the division level there are the two TLI sessions and contests. Area directors have contests as well and club visits. The reporting on club visits takes a lot of time because of the length and complexity of the online form. All of this takes away time from looking strategically at the division's needs.

Division/Area etc. Goals for Future Review

At the next division directors meeting I will report on the status described above and the push that can be made toward increasing the number of clubs that can be Distinguished. Action items relate to clubs identified above as potentially becoming Distinguished.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Barsky
Division F Director