

March 16, 2020

Fellow Toastmasters,

On March 14th your leadership team received communication from Toastmasters International in regards to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The board met and decided what the best and safest course of action would be to ensure the safety of each member. Below is a recap of the decisions made at that meeting.

- Area, Division, or District events can no longer be conducted in person, on or prior to June 1, 2020. As an alternative, we encourage Areas, Divisions, and Districts to host events online to help clubs and members through this difficult time.
- Each District must conduct its Annual District Council Meeting online, rather than in person, on or prior to June 1, 2020. More guidance on conducting an online Annual District Council Meeting will be forthcoming.
- Each District Executive Committee is authorized to determine whether they will continue to conduct or cancel Speech Contests for the 2019–2020 contest cycle. Each District is responsible for notifying World Headquarters of their decision.

These are unfortunate times but I do believe Toastmasters is acting the best way they can to ensure our members as safe at all times. Your District Executive Committee team will be meeting very soon to discuss the above items. After that meeting we will have further information on how we will be proceeding. As of right now all the **Division Contests are still going to be held virtually on April 4th and 11th**. This is pending a vote by the DEC which will be held on March 16th, 2020. More information for those events are attached to this email for all the contestants. If the decision is made to cancel the remainder of the contests by the DEC a notice will be sent out in the Tuesday with the Trio on March 17, 2020. It will also be posted online via social media and our website.

If any member has already registered for the Spring Conference on May 2nd, 2020 we will be refunding the money already paid. All we will be sending out updated calendar information with information for each event as we work through the details and changes as needed. Lastly I also recommend that **all clubs cancel their meetings** for the remainder of the month to ensure safety for all our members. This is in line with the suggestions of Toastmasters International and others who are very aware of the current situations in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. If you need help setting up virtual meetings please contact us and we will help with suggestions on how to help your members during these meeting.

These are very tough times and as an organization we will need to support each other as we work through these unprecedented times. Your leadership team appreciates all of your support during this and personally I am sure we will come out of this stronger than ever before. If we can stay focused on the core values of Toastmasters which are Respect, Integrity, Service, and Excellence each member will continue to grow and together we will become a stronger family helping each other.

Jeremyha Lyle
District 12 Director