

Date: September 27, 2009

To: Region VI I I LGETs

From: Sal and Pam, International Directors

Subject: LGET Peer Group Conference Call - **Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET

Conference Calling Toll Free Access Number: (800) 406-9170 - Conference I D: 9641402321

I nstructions: Control features: \*6 to mute your line / \*7 to un-mute your line.

Focus: Planning: **Fall Conference**  
Lessons Learned: **1st Round Club Officer Training**

Facilitator / Timer: Pam  
Scribe: Sal

### Meeting Highlights per Agenda Items

#### 1. Roll Call / Opening & Welcoming Remarks - Pam

District	LGET	Attending?
14	Roy Ganga	Yes
37	Sharon Hill	No
47	Rick Furbush	No
58	Vida Jennings	Yes
66	Jerry Keast	Yes
68	Jeff Harris	Yes
77	Bryan Holt	Yes
84	Scott Hoehn	No

I D - Pam Christopher (facilitator)

I D - Sal Asad (Scribe)

Pam welcomed the group to our conference call. She asked if there were any suggested changes to the agenda, and there were none.

#### 2. Inspirational Opening Message - Jeff Harris, LGET D68

Jeff delivered an inspirational message citing how he is being challenged and overwhelmed when running with his daughter and how she inspires him to go for next TM assignment or to earn his next designation.

"Focus on your breathing ... you're doing great"

As LGET's, we are uniquely positioned - and uniquely challenged. We have our own role to fill, yet we're also well positioned to help out the LGM's (from our prior experience); while simultaneously looking ahead to our DG's for advice and guidance on this year and our next year.

It reminded me of doing "running intervals" around the neighborhood with my oldest daughter. We' run 3 min / walk 1 min, run 4 min / walk 1 min, run / walk run / walk until we got all the way around the neighborhood. The entire time she was "coaching me up" - saying - "Focus on your breathing, focus on the next corner, only 1 minute to go -- you're doing great!"

And ... she managed to do all this talking - while when was running.

We're in the midst of our own intervals now ... TLI , Conference, TLI , Conference. Regardless ... as LGET's, we need to remember ... "Focus on your CC's, focus on your AC's, a TLI down and a Conference to go -- your doing great".

### **3. Board News Update - IDs**

WHQ is working on updating the current procedures and policies and eliminating any References to Regional conferencing and contest wording from all sections.

The Board and Executive Committee are considering new committee structure to augment or replace current committee structure.

### **4. Region Calendar & ID Conference Visits Q &A - All**

Sal explained Gary's request for ONE district conference visit per ID per District. He encouraged Districts to take advantage of additional visits by IDs at their DEC, TLI or corporate visits. He mentioned that Districts 37, 47 and 77 already requested and were granted additional visits by an ID at their DEC and TLI meetings.

Lamanda is working to combine a DEC meeting with some marketing visits and will submit that proposal when she has it all organized.

Sal reminded everyone to take advantage of the corporate visits when IDs are visiting their districts. He also reminded all that they may have the ID present an appreciation plaque if ordered ahead of time. (Allow three weeks for this, so order early.)

### **5. Planning Focus Discussion: Fall Conference - All**

LGETs were requested to share and exchange information to help each other with ideas/planning of their Fall Conferences. Here is a summary of what was discussed:

#### D37 - Sharon Hill

Although Sharon was not able to attend the conference call, she was gracious to send us a summary by e mail about her current activities. She wrote:

- o Dates: Nov 6 and Nov 7 in Asheville, NC

- Guest speaker is Dr. Katherine Morrison (3rd place winner in Calgary)
- Hotel is booked (Doubletree), registration has been distributed to the district via Tarheel Talker, web site, and e-blast.
- Budget has been reviewed for the conference and approved.
- All Educational Sessions are filled including Judge training by Ron Bower so that we have approved judges for future district contests
- Conference co-chairs have Asheville citizens opening their homes for FREE for Toastmasters. Toastmasters must sign up by September 22 to take advantage of this offer
- the co-chairs worked with the Chamber of Commerce to ask families to open their homes to Toastmasters. Some took them up on the offer and are offering a free stay for Toastmasters driving to the Asheville conference.
- We are conscious of the economics affecting folks, so the co-chairs have been creative in cutting costs for the conference.

#### D68 - Jeff Harris D68

D68 had chosen the theme "On the Right Track" for their conference to be held in Beaumont, TX from October 30 - November 1, with special treat on Halloween night.

#### D14 - Roy Ganga

D14 is sponsoring A "Spooky Speaky" Toastmasters Friday Fright Night Events - Taking the fear out of public speaking. Please visit D14 website for more details. They have 12 speakers lined up but registration so far seems to be light.

#### D66 Jerry Keast

Jerry commented that D66 people wait to the last minute to register for conferences so he decided to do something different this time. He sent a special personal invitation to each member of D66 inviting them to join him and his wife Karen. He included the highlights of the conference and its benefits to the members in his invitation. The results of his personal invitation had a positive impact on registration and people appreciated the personal invitation.

D66 is planning a night full of fun for Friday night. They are also running the evaluation contest that night instead of at lunch on Saturday for the first time to boost attendance on Friday.

They have invited Craig Valentine, World Champion of Public Speaking who will be running a Speaker's Boot Camp on Friday. For fun, they are running Casino night starting at 8 pm Friday night.

Besides the 17 educational sessions, they are also having Carl Gordon - actor from the hit TV show "ROC" as a keynote speaker. They adopted the theme: What Happens in Richmond, Should Not Stay in Richmond Share the Experience.

#### D77 - Bryan Holt

Kick-off: Friday Night - Talent Show night with sports attire. They have invited Dwayne Smith, 2002 World Champion as their motivational speaker who will conduct training Sessions on Saturday and they will have Breakfast with the Champ on Sunday. District 77 is sponsoring college students.

### D58 – Vida Jennings

D58 is preparing big time for their presidential visit with Gary Schmidt and planning for “Star Wars” adventure (Gary’s favorite). Is Gary in for a surprise treat? D58 is plotting to hijack him. Their theme is “To Remember” and they are planning on a commemorative book. They are having good responses from lots of sponsors.

Jeff Harris suggested that attendees who are willing to share their conference information (flyers, agenda, schedule, educational sessions etc) with each other. All attendees responded positively to his suggestion. Several Districts sent various conference documents by e-mail the same night as the conference call or the next day to their LGET Peers to share information. Other districts made a reference to their website where most of the desired information can be found.

## **6. Lessons Learned Discussion: First Round Club Officer Training – All**

What went well? What went wrong?

What can we do better next round?

### D37 – Sharon Hill

For Lesson Learned at Club and District officers training what amazed me is how many clubs wait for the TLI Lite and/or Area Governor training. District 37 got 100% District officer training completed at our TLI s, but we had quite a few clubs whose officers did not (or were not able) to attend.

The training themselves were awesome. I sent feedback from all the evaluation sheets to the speakers. With a rating of 1-5 with 5 being high, our results averaged 4.3%.

### D77 – Jeff Harris

D77 had training sessions for different positions of the officers as well as training on how to use the Competent Leader manual. Many people got lost so Jeff recommended providing good driving directions. He is planning to have TLI in New Orleans following the mid-year Regional training and inviting Pam to attend and assist with the training.

### D14 – Roy Ganga

Attendance turnout was very good. They have over 800. However, they still have over 1000+ officers who were not trained at TLI. He recommended having TLI next time in different locations. He cited cost as being an issue.

### D66 – Jerry Keast

What went well was good turnout. They recognized clubs with 4+ officers being trained.

What did not go well: following TLI, follow-up to train additional officers was a challenge.

What to do better: Have a kiosk available before and after training to answer questions. They will try to reach out for more members. He cited the quality of instruction to be very crucial.

## D77 – Bryan Holt

TLI went very well. They had very good instructors.

What went wrong: They have only two people at registration. They should have scheduled more people to speed up the process because most people were showing up at the last minute. Planning for food was a challenge since not everyone pre-registered. He recommended that members should be surveyed to see what they want to see at the Fall TLI and also if they would like to be an instructor. He recommended making registration a fee for TLI or make-up TLI to be same so people don't skip main the TLI and come free to the make-up TLI.

## D58 –Vida Jennings

- Concept of pre-registration is not understood
- Handouts: Go the CD route
- They had a theme and they named the classes to describe the officers (ex: Commander in Chief for President, etc.)
- Although only 44 pre-registered, over 100 showed up. Plan for reserve.

## **7. Open Forum: What is on your mind? Q & A – All**

Lots of discussion took place during the previous items. Attendees were reminded to stay beyond the normal conference call if you want to talk about more issues.

## **8. Region / District News Update / Announcements / Remarks – I Ds**

The following news update and announcements were made by Sal:

### **Deadlines for September 30:**

- a. Area and Division Governor Training Report (85%) to WHQ
- b. District Success Plan Matrix to WHQ (Full plan to I Ds)
- c. District Budget
- d. Club Officer training Report
- e. Membership Building Contest – Smedley Awards- end.
- f. Triple membership points for chartering as many clubs in July, August and September

### **Midyear training**

- Budget impact – No reimbursement for travel this year from WHQ. Reimbursement starts with the new TM 2010-1011.
- WHQ will have a representative at the mid-year training. They are covering his / her expenses.
- Plan your budget based on last year's expenses.
- Send suggestions for topics by end of October at the latest. The sooner the better for planning.
- D68 is the host. Venue most likely will be in New Orleans.

## **District Dash-Board Performance Report**

Region and Individual District Report was sent to the District's Trio today. It will be posted on the website and will be updated weekly / monthly as appropriate.

It's a very comprehensive report that includes YTD performance standing, YTD projection analysis, variances, DDP point computation and what-if-analysis capability.

I strongly suggest each district to schedule 20-30 minute conference call with Sal and Pam during a conference call among the District Trio or on an individual District basis to go over the report and answer questions on how to use it (this is optional but strongly recommended). Although this report will be covered in details during mid-year training, you should be familiar with it sooner. It goes hand-in-hand with your district success plan.

## **ID Visits**

District should take advantage of a second visit by their ID to events other than District Conferences. Please plan for Corporate / Marketing visits for your ID. Also plan on ordering corporate plaques for your corporate appreciation visits. Prepare for presentation / General session / workshop / keynote speech during your ID visit.

## **9. Inspirational Closing Message - Vida Jennings, LGET D58**

Vida delivered the following inspirational message which was admired by all:

A young woman was complaining to her father about her problems and how difficult her life was.

"Come with me," he said. "I want to show you something." He took her into the kitchen where he put three pots of water on the stove to heat. Meanwhile, he cut up some carrots and put them into the first pot to boil. Into the simmering water in the second pot he put two eggs. In the third pot he poured some ground coffee. After a few minutes, he strained the carrots into one bowl, peeled the eggs and put them into another, and into a cup he poured the strained coffee. Then he placed them before his daughter.

"What's all this supposed to mean?" she asked somewhat impatiently. "Each of these items can teach us something about the way we handle adversity," he answered. "The carrots started out hard, but the boiling water turned them mushy. The eggs went into the water fragile but came out hard and rubbery. The coffee, on the other hand, changed the water into something better."

"Sweetheart," he said, "you can choose how you will respond to your problems. You can let them make you weak. You can let them make you hard. Or you can use them to create something beneficial. It's all up to you."

## **10. Closing Remarks - IDs**

Next LGET conference call is scheduled for November 10, 2009 from 8:00 - 9:00 pm. Eastern Time. Sal will facilitate this call.

Pam and Sal thanked the attendees for all the work they are doing and taking the time to attend this call.

The conference call was adjourned at 9:10 pm. However, several people stayed for the next 30 minutes.

## **End of Minutes**

Note: Conference call line will stay open for an additional 30 minutes. Conference attendees who wish to stay on to continue further discussions and / or to have a one-on-one discussion are welcome to stay on for the next 30 minutes.

## **Distribution List**

<b>District</b>	<b>LGET</b>	<b>TM Designation</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
14	Roy Ganga	DTM	lget@gatoastmasters.org
37	Sharon Hill	DTM	dist37lget@yahoo.com
47	Rick Furbush	DTM	rickfurbush@mac.com
58	Vida Jennings	DTM	vida.jennings@att.net
66	Jerry Keast	ACS	Jerry.Keast@ngc.com
68	Jeff Harris	CC	d68lget@gmail.com
77	Bryan Holt	DTM	myholtba@yahoo.com
84	Scott Hoehn	DTM	scotth@toastmastersd84.org

## **Meeting Ground Rules (apply to all calls)**

- 1- Official time of calls will be limited to one hour from 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm EST (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm CST). However the conference Call will open 15 minutes early (@ 7:45 pm EST) and stay open 30 minutes late ( 9:30 pm EST) Attendees who wish to join earlier or stay later for informal discussion are welcome to take advantage of this extra time.
- 2- Two LGETs will be assigned to give an opening and closing Inspirational messages. Each LGET is encouraged to come prepared to deliver such a message in case the original assignees are not present.
- 3- Each speaker should limit comments to two minutes at a time and relinquish the floor to the next speaker before speaking again.
- 4- An attendee desiring to add a topic to the agenda should send an e-mail to the leading I D at least 3 days prior to the call.
- 5- If an attendee from a district can't make the call, he / she may request from one of the other two TRI Os to attend in his / her stead or send information to be shared to the lead I D.

- 6- Not every District's attendee is obligated or required to speak. Whoever has any contribution is welcome to share information.
- 7- The Lead I D will lead the group discussion; the other I D will be scribe of notes which should be distributed within three days after the call.
- 8- A district's attendee who has any reference material to share should send such material to the Lead I D prior to the conference for distribution ahead of the call.
- 9- Conference calls WILL NOT be used to review performance stats. Each District should be familiar with its performance status prior to the call.
- 10- Unless informed otherwise, the same conference call id and password will be used for all calls.