



# District Events

March 14, 2020

Dear District Leaders,

We commend you for your desire to continue upholding the high standards of District operations. You have been working hard to overcome recent challenges despite the escalating impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on individuals and communities both inside and outside of Toastmasters. We have heard and appreciate your concern for members and clubs and your requests for assistance and direction.

The Board of Directors met on March 14 to discuss options to protect and support our members, club leaders, and District leaders. After much deliberation, the Board made the following decisions regarding current and upcoming District events, effective immediately:

- 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.

Below is a list of recommended actions related to these decisions:

- Schedule a special online meeting of the District Executive Committee to discuss current and upcoming District events. The agenda for this meeting should include the District conference, speech contests, and any other events between now and June 1, 2020. Once the meeting has concluded, make sure to notify World Headquarters ([districts@toastmasters.org](mailto:districts@toastmasters.org)) of the plan for your Annual District Council Meeting and Speech Contest.
- Review the contracts with venues and vendors to determine financial impact.
  - Some local governments might have imposed gathering bans that would enact an impossibility clause/force majeure, as a result voiding some or all aspects of the contract.
  - Work on creative solutions with your venues and vendors. Perhaps your deposit can apply to a future event or the event can be rescheduled to a later date.
- Begin planning your online District Council Meeting. This will require an online meeting platform, online voting tool, and a team to support the meeting. More information will soon be available at [www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/district-leader-tools/district-management/virtual-meeting-and-vote](http://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/district-leader-tools/district-management/virtual-meeting-and-vote).
- Communicate the decision of the District Executive Committee, including the date and time of the Annual Council Meeting, to the members.
- Encourage all Area Directors to continue conducting their club visits, online if necessary.

## 2020 Toastmasters International Convention

Toastmasters International is aware of the significant impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on France and surrounding areas. We are actively working with our partners in Paris, France to assess its impact on the 2020 Toastmasters International Convention, and relying on guidance from local health and government officials. We appreciate your patience during this time and will provide updates as they become available.

We are committed to working with you and providing the best support possible. Additional strategies to engage your members are forthcoming on [www.toastmasters.org/covid19](http://www.toastmasters.org/covid19). Toastmasters International appreciates your dedication during these difficult times. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [districts@toastmasters.org](mailto:districts@toastmasters.org).

Sincerely,



Deepak Menon, DTM  
2019-2020 International President  
Toastmasters International



Daniel Rex  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toastmasters International