

## Queries & Responses from the Districts Awards Review meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun & 24<sup>th</sup> Jun, 2020

- 1) The Golden Gavel criteria has 80% unique members from club filing education awards which is too high, can the margin be reduced?**

**Response:** After heavy brainstorming with the trio, it has been decided to reduce the margin of unique members from clubs filing education awards to 60%.

- 2) The attendance of joint meetings can be brought down to 40% instead of 50% or have grading instead of percentage**

**Response:** The district leadership decided to keep the attendance for joint meetings at 50%

Joint meetings are encouraged between clubs to learn the best practices and exhibit collaboration. The general understanding is the overall quality of the meeting elevates to the next level during joint meetings and guests witnessing these meetings do feel urged to sign up for a Toastmasters membership. When there is a thin attendance for joint meetings, it certainly does not look good for the hosting club or the club(s) that join the host. For a club with 20 members, 50% indicates 10 members to be present in attendance for the joint meeting. Considering that the first two joint meetings are virtual, having 50% of club member in attendance should not be a problem. Clubs pursuing golden gavel can plan for these joint meetings and seek the support of the club members to be available for the joint meetings and help the club in achieving the Golden Gavel Award

- 3) The attendance of Visiting Toastmaster meetings, Themed meetings and Outdoor meetings can be brought down to 50% instead of 75%**

**Response:** The district leadership decided to keep the attendance for the Visiting Toastmasters, Themed meetings, and Outdoor meetings at 75%

It would be very odd and showcase the club hosting a visiting toastmaster in poor light when the attendance is very thin. It would also be an embarrassment for the Toastmaster visiting the club and see a poor audience. Hence it is important for the club hosting a visiting Toastmaster to have a good audience and 75% would be an ideal strength. Likewise, themed meetings and outdoor meeting are special meetings for the club, and this also promotes the brand of Toastmasters. It's very important for the club members to provide patronage for these special meetings and turn up in good numbers. 75% is considered as an ideal number for these outdoor meetings.

- 4) For online meetings what is the best way to have attendance sheet?**

**Response:** For online meetings which are being held using tools like Zoom, Google Meet, MS Teams, Skype, Webex etc. the SAA or Secretary can take a screen shot of the participants list at an agreed point in time during the meeting. This would serve as a proof for Joint meetings, Themed meetings, Visiting Toastmaster meetings etc.

**5) How can themed meetings be conducted when meetings are conducted online?**

**Response:** Some of the ideas as to how themed meetings can be conducted virtually are, the participants can have a common background orienting to the theme, dress for the occasion etc.

**6) Lots of corporate clubs will find it difficult to maintain attendance for outdoor meetings are the pre-requisite is high.**

**Response:** Please refer to the response of point 2. If the club Excomm can plan well in advance for the outdoor meetings and seek the support for the club members, getting 75% of attendance is very much possible.

**7) How can outdoor meetings be conducted online?**

**Response:** Outdoor meetings cannot be conducted online. Since the requirement is only once in a term, this can be planned once the situation returns to normal.

**8) How can banners and charts be displayed for the online meetings?**

**Response:** Since the display of banners and charts are only for AD visits, this will not be a pre-requisite for the AD visits, but the clubs are encouraged to probably arrange for a make-shift background image of the Club name, Club number, District, Division and Area # when the SAA opens up the meeting.

**9) Will club officer upload list be taken from the TMI portal?**

**Response:** Yes, the Club officer upload list will be taken from the TMI portal. However the pre-requisites for the club conducting an election has to be mandatorily submitted to get points towards the Golden Gavel.

**10) Can the district provide a consistent attendance sheet format?**

**Response:** The attendance sheet can be downloaded from the TMI portal.  
<https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/club-sign-in-sheet>

**11) There are clubs where the elections are not conducted, and the club officers are unanimously selected. How can the elections be conducted then?**

**Response:** Electing club officers is a critical aspect of a club's success. Even if there is just one nomination per position, the election officer calls for floor nominations and only then closes nominations. It is like what happens in District Council elections. Hence, such officers are considered unanimously elected, not selected, or appointed. Even if there are no multiple nominations for the same club officer role, it is recommended to ask the nominated candidate to give a 2-minute speech about the vision they have for the club once they assume the role as a part of the election process.

**12) How to take photographs of the elected club officers in a virtual setup?**

**Response:** The election officer can request the elected club officers to turn on the video and the other members to turn off the video and take a screenshot.

**13) How will charter clubs conduct election?**

**Response:** Charter clubs can conduct election for the second term as there would be no formal election process for the first term. The GG submission for club officer elections and officer upload is for only one term

**14) Are there awards planned for VPPR and Secretary roles?**

**Response:** As a part of district awards, there are no separate awards planned for VPPR and Secretary roles, but the PR Team does have plans. Please do await to hear more from the PR team.

**15) Can outdoor meetings be conducted in campus lawn? Will it be considered valid?**

**Response:** Any location outside is considered valid. It can be a campus lawn or a parking.

**16) Excellence in Club building award for Club Coaches mandates the club to reach DCP 7 and beyond. Can that be reduced to DCP 5?**

**Response:** TI recognizes Club Coaches who helps club in achieving the Distinguished Club Program which is 20 members and 5 DCP. This District award is for those coaches who go the extra mile to help the clubs achieve DCP 7 and beyond. Obviously, the club coaches do have the support of the helping club which will be pursuing the Samaritan club award and the club coach should not have an issue in finding role players. All that the club coach will have to do is it to work with the Club officers and the Club Growth team and strategize on how to help the club reach 20 members.

**17) What are the TLI events for which the GG points will be awarded**

**Response:** Here are the TLI events for which Golden Gavel points will be awarded

**1<sup>st</sup> Term:**

- New member orientation
- Meeting Roles & Responsibilities
- How to conduct Club elections and Officers Transition

**2<sup>nd</sup> Term:**

- New member Orientation
- Emergence
- How to conduct Club elections and Officers Transition

For the New member orientation program, the clubs must ensure that they send across only new members with less than one year into Toastmasters for the program.

For Meeting Roles & Responsibilities, there must be a couple of members from the Club ExCom

For the session How to conduct Club elections and Officers Transition, 2 members from the Club ExCom is mandatory