

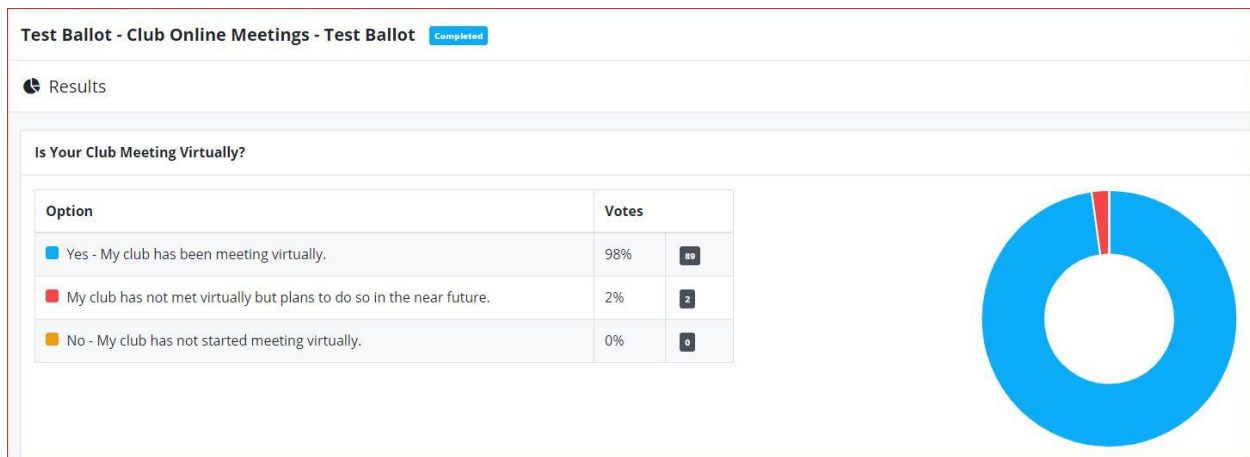


It is hard to believe that 10 months of the 2019-2020 Toastmasters program year is now behind us. No one could have predicted at the start of our year together on July 2019 that this year would be such a roller coaster with so much change and uncertainty that has impacted all of us in so many

ways. The impacts have hit each of us personally, professionally and financially. We have seen more changes in Toastmasters in the last two months than in the last 20 years. District 37 has been a model in excellence. As an example, our very first online Division speech contests were held March 28th lead by Division F Director Valda Ford and Division K Director Cecil Dharmasri. The last 2019-2020 online Division speech contest was held April 28th thanks to the leadership of Division D Director Gary Cohen. In all, our District held 11 online Division International Speech and 11 online Division Table Topics contests in 30 days. Remarkable!

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM for our first virtual District 37 International Speech and Table Topics contests on Zoom. Please register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/district-37-international-speech-and-table-topics-contest-tickets-103808421784>

An even bigger achievement is how District 37 clubs have made the transition to holding online club meetings to continue to support the member. I shared this following graph at the May 2nd District Council meeting showing how our club leaders have stepped up to make the transition to a virtual club meeting.



At the District Council meeting, it was an honor to report that 33 District 37 clubs have achieved DISTINGUISHED status with 14 of the 33 clubs achieving the highest status of being PRESIDENT’S DISTINGUISHED.

As of this date, more than 77 clubs in District 37 have already achieved the DCP program points to be distinguished but have not yet achieved 20 members or added 5 members from the July 2019 base. It has been a challenge given the impact of the coronavirus crisis. However, there are still two months left in the 2019-2020 year and District 37 has always achieved excellence.

During the district council meeting, I gave three challenges to the district and club leaders.

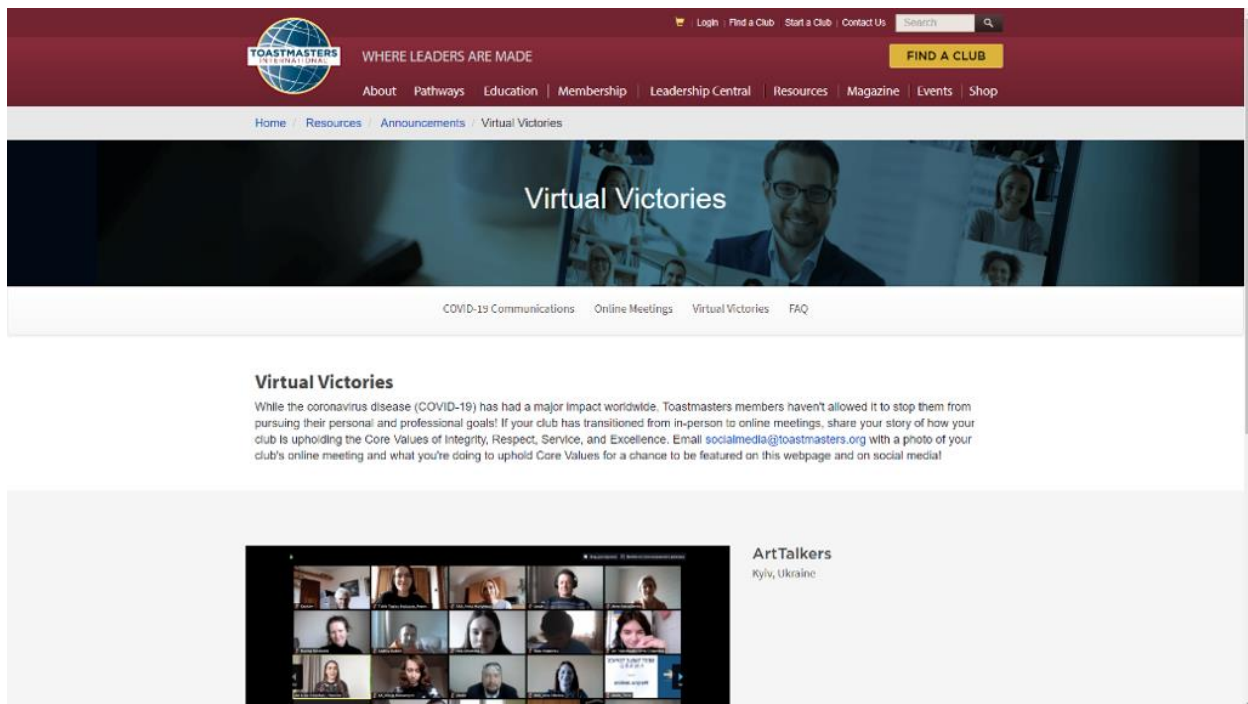
First. I asked that all 232 active District 37 clubs add seven members between now and June 30, 2020. Before you say that’s impossible, keep in mind you may now recruit and add virtual members (not to be confused with paper members) along with reaching out to new members and reconnecting

with former club members. Keep in mind you have something new to talk about. ***The virtual club experience!***

Second. Every District 37 Toastmaster earn one education award. Please invest in yourself. There is no better way than to plan for and achieve an education award.

Third. Share Your **Virtual Victory** story. Take a look at

<https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/news%20and%20announcements/virtual%20victories>



Submit your story by sending an email to socialmedia@toastmasters.org

It would be such an honor to see a District 37 club highlighted on the Toastmasters International web site.

Last, keep pace with Toastmasters changes by frequently visiting

<http://toastmasters.org/covid19>

Keep up with changes in our District by visiting <http://d37toastmasters.org>

Myself and the District 37 leadership team are here to support you as we move through this time of change and uncertainty. Please reach out to us.

Elmer Hill, DTM

2019-2020 District 37 Director