

District 91 Education & Training Report

4 September 2021

The District 91 Education and Training Committee has been convened in response to an Advanced Motion at the District Council Meeting held on 1st May 2021.

According to the Minutes of that meeting, the title of the Motion is:

Motion for the District 91 Training Policy to be Reviewed and Updated.

It is not within the remit of Districts to write Policy documents. Therefore, no District 91 Training Policy exists that can be reviewed and updated by this committee.

However, for the good of members in District 91 a consideration of the duration and scheduling of the Education & Training offered by the District is of benefit.

Two areas for consideration were identified by the Proposer: duration and scheduling.

Duration

Toastmasters International guidance on Club Officer Training can be found here:
<https://toastmasterscdn.azureedge.net/medias/files/department-documents/club-documents/club-officer-training-materials/training-club-leaders-manual.pdf>

The Appendix, page 12, states that:

"Five hours is the minimum time it takes to effectively conduct club officer training in a traditional or TLI format."

This statement could be taken to mean that officers should attend training for a minimum of five hours. However, Toastmasters International has clarified that this statement means that a minimum of five hours is required to deliver the curriculum outlined in the guidance and should not be interpreted as five hours being the minimum amount of time for an officer to be trained.

Toastmasters International states that the important part of training is that it follows the curriculum, not how long the officer is in training.

Scheduling

The Toastmasters International Club Officer Training Schedule is available online:
<https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/district-leader-tools/training/club-officer-training-schedule>

The schedule states that:

"Districts must train club officers twice per year.

"First Training: Between June 1 and August 31

"Second Training: Between November 1 and February 28"

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Recommendations

1. While the District cannot write Policy documents, it can create requirements to earn Club Officer Training credit and it can create a series of best practices. This Committee recommends that such requirements and/or best practices be created, to make the expectations and obligations as transparent as possible. In this way, members will know what to expect when they take on the roles of Club Officers.
2. Dates for Club Officer Training should be posted as far in advance as possible. Further, Club Officers must be proactive in finding out when and where Club Officer Training will be delivered. We wish to acknowledge that everyone in the District is a committed volunteer, but a volunteer nonetheless and the valuable time of our members should be cherished.
3. Club Officer Training, whether delivered in the traditional format at Area level or at District/Division level in the TLI format, must follow the Toastmasters International curriculum. The format chosen should reflect the needs of members while taking into consideration the time constraints of those delivering the training.

The training offered by District 91 is highly regarded, both inside and outside the District. Since its constitution in 2014, the District has consistently been among the top performing districts in the world for Distinguished Clubs. In pursuit of Excellence, it is only right that we reflect with Integrity on what we do well and look for ways to improve our Service to members, while Respecting the needs of all members.

Vanessa King, DTM
Past District Director 2016-17
Chair, Education & Training Committee

With thanks for the service of Committee Members:

Antonia Harrison
Roz Etwaria
Paul Burn