

## **NORTHERN DIVISION REPORT**

**May 21, 2019**

The Northern Division is working to achieve distinguished status this year. We are the smallest of the District 26 divisions, starting the year with 13 clubs. Two clubs were chartered this year – Yellowstone Toastmasters in Cody, and Platte County Toastmasters in Wheatland – giving us a new total of 15 clubs without any losses. In addition, another club is in the process of chartering in Riverton.

Three hard-working area directors in Northern have been very involved with their clubs this year. Traveling distances are always a challenge but these individuals –

Mike Hand, Area N1

Mary Ann Hoff, Area N2

Jane Thomas, Area N3

have met and exceeded the challenges we face. They maintain frequent contact with their clubs by phone calls, club visits and officer training sessions.

Area N4 in Cheyenne has not had an area director all year, but ironically, they are thriving with the highest number of members.

Club officer training has been a challenge this year. I worked closely with the area directors to train our club officers this year. The TLI in Cheyenne trains most of the ones in this geographical area but we also traveled to outlying areas to facilitate club officer training.

Increasing the number of club members is always a problem for us due to smaller, scattered population pockets. Most of our clubs are concentrated in the more highly populated areas of Cheyenne and Casper. Some clubs are struggling. However, social media like Facebook, Meet-up, Twitter, and Instagram is having a positive impact for the clubs that use it. Our perpetually low-member club, Hear Me Roar, now has a club coach. We have been advertising via Meet-up which has brought an average of three visitors per meeting. Cheyenne 798 uses Twitter extensively. They continue to draw visitors to every meeting.

We have one distinguished club and one select distinguished club. If several other clubs can meet their membership goals, that number would be increased. My mantra through the end of the Toastmaster year is more members, more members, more members.

Geography and traveling distances are Northern's biggest challenges. It takes seven hours with rest stop breaks to drive from Cheyenne to Cody. We are fortunate to have great club members and officers with who ask questions, work the program, and welcome visitors. They are the true heroes of our division.

It's been an interesting two years but I am happy to relinquish responsibility for Northern Division to Dave Dawson, the new division director.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Haldi, DTM