

Motion to District Council - District Conference

We propose that **District Operating Procedure B4.2** be amended to allow **District Conference** to be held over either **two** or **three** days. At present, B4.2 requires that conference be held over three days.

Rationale

1. District Conference was extended from two days to three days following the discontinuation of the November conference, which made it necessary to hold all four contest finals in May. Before that change, Conference committees arranged Friday night events including the Candidate's Showcase, and ran the Conference proper on Saturday and Sunday.
2. Since the District Executive has voted to replace the humorous contest with one that is online, that rationale no longer applies. The remaining three in-person contests have been successfully accommodated over two days.
3. The addition of a third day imposes significant extra costs to hire a venue, which will have to be passed on to members. And costs continue to increase to put on conferences.
4. Conference committees should be able to plan for three-day conferences if they wish, if they can justify the cost and create a suitable programme, but equally they should be free to plan for a two-day event. Since there is no longer a District event that must be held on Friday, Friday should be regarded as an optional conference day.
5. Running a conference for two days only, with an optional-attendance Friday evening event, will reduce conference costs, and the savings can be passed on to members. With rising hiring and catering costs, the ability should be provided to save hundreds or even thousands of dollars by running a two-day event.
6. The motion as written makes no mention of specific contests, in order to assure its universal applicability in regard to whatever contests the District may choose to offer from time to time.

The motion:

That Operating Procedure B4.2 be amended to read as follows:

*'The duration of the District Conference shall be **either two or three** days, commencing on **either Friday or Saturday** and concluding on Sunday to accommodate the District Speech Contest finals, an educational programme, the Annual District Council Meeting and District Awards.'*