



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Teresa Smith**

Candidate's Office: **Division A Director** District Number: **57**

Toastmasters member since: **Feb 2017**

Education:

AA in Liberal Studies

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Area Director 2020-2021
President 2018-2020
VP of Membership 2017-2018

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Triple Crown Winner
Motivational Strategies Level 3
Competent Leader

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

I was an Event Planner in my previous life and now I am a Staff Buyer. I am able to multi-task, work with any different types of individuals as well as groups from all over the world to ensure collaboration and success of events. I am able to set goals and work until they are accomplished. I am able to negotiate and motivate vendors, suppliers and people to get to a mutually successful outcome. I am great with my written and verbal communication skills.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

In serving as Area Director the last year, President of my TM club for 2 years as well as a Little League President and District Officer for over 5 years I have come be well versed in strategic planning. Serving these roles requires a tremendous amount of planning to be successful. Our TM club grew in size under my leadership and was finally recognized as a President's Distinguihsed club. As a buyer I am constantly working with an ever changing build plan to procure material for delivery from our suppliers at the right quantity and time with quality product. As a previous event planner, everything is about strategy and negotiation in regards to vendors when it comes to venues, pricing, material and having to ensure meetings effectively meet their mission/goals/requirements.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I worked at a bank for 10 years as an Assistant Loan Officer. I've taken accounting courses in college and, as previously mentioned, I am currently a buyer so I work with numbers, pricing, cost savings and finance all of the time.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Serving as President in both organizations led me to implement procedures for myself as well as the groups I worked with which they still use today. In my role as a buyer, we deal with procedures every day, some of which we are part of building and improving during RIEs (rapid improvement events).

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I believe in leading by example. I won't ask you to do something I wouldn't do myself. I also believe in being as transparent as possible and always being honest. This helps develop trust and relationships which can be key to being a good and effective leader. Finally, my most challenging lesson is in delegating. I still struggle with it but as time goes on I realize the only way to let your people grow and get better is to give them the opportunity.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

If I didn't believe in the mission of ToastMasters, I would simply stop at being a member. However, I do believe in it and the main reason I want to be a District leader is to help others improve. I very much enjoy watching people grow their public speaking skills but also their leadership skills. I see them gain confidence in themselves and it's a physical transformation. If I can be helpful in impacting their lives and making them better well rounded people at home, at work and/or their personal lives, it gives me fulfillment.

In your opinion, what are the District mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

Our mission is to give members a good experience with their club, our District and with TM in general. We should strive to help clubs be successful so they can help their members be successful. Our job is to support, provide information and be available when needed to help build and guide clubs and individual members.

Additional information about yourself: