



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Mindi Davis**

Candidate's Office: **PQD** District Number: **5**

Toastmasters member since: **2014**

Education:

I have a BSBM plus a PhD in the School of Hard Knocks.

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

I've been an Area Director and Division Director twice. Currently I serve as a Central Division Director.

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

I achieved my DTM in 2017. At that time I also received a Triple Crown

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

The past 5 years I worked as a REALTOR®. This taught me how to use multiple channels to follow up with people. I spent 2 years as an American Red Cross Chairman of station in Japan. I also served 2 years as a PTA President. In both positions I was responsible for fundraising and managing hundreds of volunteers. It taught me how to inspire and motivate

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

In addition to previous endeavors, I am a retired Navy wife with 2 now adult kids. Both were born premature. One is Autistic and currently lives in a group home. We moved every 2 1/2 yrs. I had to implement strategies to move, work within the special needs systems of each new school district.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Besides fundraising, I also applied and received 3 grants totaling more than \$30K for the school I was PTA President for.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

One thing the Navy taught me is that I am replaceable and if I am a good leader, I will provide the knowledge, encouragement, and resources to recruit my replacement. I see huge opportunities to streamline COT, begin recruiting people for leadership roles now for next year, and implement current channels to increase education awards in clubs not participating in the DCP

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Most importantly you cannot demand a volunteer to do anything. You must understand their whys and inspire them to grow. There are many ways to recognize people, but it must be more than once a year with a plaque or trophy

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I am retired and now have and the time to dedicate to the position. I also feel I owe it to the District to dedicate my time. I am also shocked at its current state. I know I can work with other leaders to make D5TM vibrant again as we move forward post pandemic.

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

Please see my attached plan

Additional information about yourself:

I love to write. I love to travel. I am happily married to my Tom more than 30 years. I believe its important to have a plan and pivot as necessary to achieve the objective. I believe in Kaizen- the Japanese belief in continuous improvement. I believe the idea of perfection prevents people from taking action. Just do it.



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Shriram HR**

Candidate's Office: ~~Division Director~~ *Program Quality Director* District Number: **5**

Toastmasters member since: **Jan 2022**

Education:
DL,5

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:
Charter President
Area Director
Division Director

Toastmasters honors and recognition:
Club extension citation
Presidents Distinguished Club
Select Distinguished AD
Youngest AD & DvD

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:
As Student Council President, you oversee the overall functioning and effectiveness of student activities, akin to ensuring quality programming in Toastmasters. Both roles require leadership, communication skills, and the ability to foster a supportive environment for growth and development. You guide members towards achieving their goals and strive to maintain high standards of excellence. Both positions involve coordinating events, managing resources, and providing constructive feedback to enhance performance.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?
As Student Council President, strategic planning involves setting clear goals and priorities for the council's initiatives. It requires analyzing student needs, resources, and potential challenges to develop effective strategies. Crafting long-term visions and short-term action plans are essential to drive impactful changes and enhance student experiences. Effective communication and collaboration with council members are vital in executing these plans efficiently and adapting to unforeseen circumstances.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?
As Student Council President, you oversee budget allocation for events, clubs, and initiatives, ensuring fiscal responsibility. You liaise with administration to manage funds transparently and advocate for financial support for student projects. Your leadership drives financial decision-making to enhance student experiences within budgetary constraints. I have managed a P&L of more than \$25,000 in a FY

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

1. The student council president facilitates open discussions among members to gather diverse perspectives on procedural needs.
2. They lead brainstorming sessions to identify potential areas for improvement and efficiency in school operations.
3. The president collaborates with relevant stakeholders, such as teachers and administrators, to ensure proposed procedures align with school policies.
4. They oversee the drafting and refinement of procedural documents, incorporating feedback from the council and other stakeholders.
5. Finally, the president communicates finalized procedures to the student body, fostering transparency and understanding throughout the school community.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

1. As a college president, I learned the importance of vision and strategic planning, setting clear goals and rallying the community towards a common purpose.
2. Serving as an area director in Toastmasters honed my skills in communication and delegation, fostering collaboration among diverse teams to achieve shared objectives.
3. In my role as a division director in Toastmasters, I developed adeptness in managing complexity, navigating challenges, and inspiring excellence across multiple clubs and districts.
4. These experiences taught me the value of empathy and active listening, understanding the needs and aspirations of those I lead to empower them effectively.
5. Effective leadership requires adaptability and resilience, as I encountered unexpected obstacles and learned to pivot strategies while staying focused on overarching objectives.
6. Overall, these roles instilled in me a deep appreciation for servant leadership, prioritizing the growth and success of others as the cornerstone of effective leadership.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

1. Serving as a district leader in Toastmasters allows me to give back to a community that has empowered my personal and professional growth.
2. I aspire to inspire and mentor others on their journey of self-improvement and communication excellence.
3. By taking on this leadership role, I can contribute to the development of effective communication and leadership skills within my district.
4. Ultimately, I am driven by a passion for helping others unleash their full potential and achieve success in both their personal and professional lives.

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

The major objectives of the District mission typically revolve around supporting clubs, enhancing member experience, and promoting Toastmasters' educational programs. I would work towards achieving these objectives by fostering collaboration among clubs, providing resources for member development, and actively promoting Toastmasters events and initiatives within the district.

Additional information about yourself:



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: NIKO PODIMATES

Candidate's Office: PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR District Number: 5

Toastmasters member since: JAN 2019

Education:
BA IN BUSINESS MARKETING FROM SDSU
AA IN PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:
CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR '23-'24
SOUTHERN DIVISION DIRECTOR '22-'23
AREA DIRECTOR '20-'22

Toastmasters honors and recognition:
DTM
PRESIDENTS DISTINGUISH SOUTHERN DIVISION DIRECTOR

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:
I AM AN EVENT PLANNER BY TRADE & THE PQD ROLE FEELS LIKE A LOT OF COORDINATING EVENTS/TRAVELING SO THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP CAN SUCCEED IN THEIR ROLE & EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

What experience do you have in strategic planning?
WHEN PLANNING AN EVENT YOU HAVE TO DO A PRETTY COMPREHENSIVE SCAN OF WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO ACCOMPLISH SAID IDEA. THEN IDENTIFY STEPS NECESSARY TO BRING ALL COMPONENTS TOGETHER ALL WHILE WORKING AGAINST AN EVER COUNTING CLOCK.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?
BOOKKEEPER FOR THE BUSINESS I MANAGE, QUARTYARD. PERSONAL BUDGET SYSTEM.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

WE HAVE CREATED SYSTEMS FOR COMPLETING CERTAIN TASKS AT WORK SO IF SOMEONE IS ABSENT A REPLACEMENT CAN ~~BE~~ EASILY GET THE TASK ACCOMPLISHED.
DOCUMENT PROCESS, CREATE CHECKLIST, TEST LIST, INPUT UPDATES

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

YOU NEED SUPPORT FROM A TEAM OF INDIVIDUALS.
LONGER TIMELINES + MORE REPEITION IS NEEDED THAN YOU THINK.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I LEARNED ALOT IN ~~OLD~~ ROLE & WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE MY LEARNING THRU TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP.
THRE POSITIONS WERE PRESENTED TO ME AS A 4 YEAR COMMITMENT SO I WOULD NOT LIKE TO ABANDON THE DISTRICT ON MY COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP.

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

AS I SEE IT THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE TO FOCUS ON WOULD BE EXCELLENCE IN THE DISTRICT. I WOULD WORK TO ACHIEVE IT BY CLEARLY DEFINING EXCELLENCE & THEN WORKING TOWARDS IN CORPORATING NEW PARTICIPANTS IN TRAININGS & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR EVENTS SO THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A LEADER IN THEIR CLUBS & IN DS.
Additional information about yourself:

BORN & RAISED IN SD
PASSIONATE ABOUT CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS TO CREATE.