



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Sherry MacDonald

Candidate's Office: District Director

District Number: 45

Toastmasters member since: 2015

Education:

I received my undergrad degree in Computer Science from Acadia University. Since have taken many courses, both technical and soft skills.

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

PQD 2024-25; CGD 2023-24; Division F Director 2018-19; Area 22 Director 2017-18
Club Sponsor (3 times) 2018-20, 2019 & 21; Club Mentor 2021; Club Coach (3) 2017-19, 2021-22; 2022-23
Pathways Guide 2017-18
President (at least 6 terms); VPE (2 terms), VPM (5 terms), Treasurer (4 terms), Secretary

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Several CCs, CLs and ALBs, ACS, ACG and DTM in legacy program
DTM in Pathways along with several additional levels
AAA award, 4 Triple Crown, 2 (I think) Trail Blazer awards

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

I have been in leadership roles throughout my career. During my technical years I coached and lead junior developers before moving onto Project Management and Manager roles

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

As an IT manager, I was responsible for determining and planning system upgrades as well as the resources required.
Within Toastmasters I participate in the club and District planning

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Working for Department of Finance as well as an insurance company gave me a different perspective on financial accounting. As a volunteer I was involved with a work social club for approximately 1000 people. I also managed the finances for two girl guide groups while I was a leader. And, of course, my own personal budgeting :)

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Every application developed required me to look at the procedures and processes. Looking at the most efficient way of accomplishing goals while taking into consideration all the stakeholders, costs and impact to the business.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I am naturally a detailed person and realizing that the big picture is just as relevant as the details. I also learned, and maybe it was from Toastmasters or my kids, that I don't have to solve every problem presented to me. Sometimes listening is all that is needed.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

Ten years ago I started my Toastmasters journey and through TM I have stretched myself and grown. I see how Toastmasters can have a positive impact on someones personal and professional lives. Besides my own growth, I get a great deal of pleasure seeing others grow and develop. Taking on a District leader role will allow me to both, stretch myself and help others do the same.

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

Now that the pandemic is behind us, I believe we are in the process of rebuilding clubs and getting members back to in-person events. Yes, I believe it is important to create new clubs, but more importantly it is critical to ensure each member has a story-telling experience that allows everyone to spread the word of all the great things Toastmasters has to offer.

Additional information about yourself:

When I take something on, I go all in and work to achieve every goal. But I also recognize when my skills, opinions and values are not serving me or the organization well and I then step back.