District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Connie Bok

Candidate's Office: Club Growth Director

District Number: 64

Toastmasters member since: June 2018

Education:

Business Administration - Marketing and Entrepreneurship, Assiniboine Community College

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Area 32 Director 2020-21
Division C Director 2021-22
Public relations Manager 2023- Present
Club President 2020-21 and 2019-20
VP Education 2019-2023
VP Public relations 2022- 24

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Visionary Communicator Pathway complete

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

Past Store manager for Starbucks and Rogers - managing teams, training, planning and organization

20+ years volunteer experience on a Board of Directors and the Executive Board for the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba in Brandon which hosts 3 major events each year. (working on committees, event planning/organizing, working with a variety of different people from directors, to horse exhibitors etc)

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Have been in a number of Strategic planning sessions with Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba. When we host 3 major events every year we are always planning 5 and 10 years out. When our club was struggling coming out of Covid our club members of 4 had to sit down and plan out how we were going to rebuild our club. We were successful going from 5-13 members in one TM year and since added members to be at 21 members now. Within my own journey within Toastmasters I had to set goals and plan out how I was going to achieve them.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Creating and working with budgets for the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba. Planning events you need to have the forethought about future plans and then trying to make those plans a reality within a budget. I also have worked in accounts receivable/payables in previous job over the years. Within my current job I deal with finance on the side of procurement with purchasing and invoices. So over the years had opportunity and experience in different areas of finance.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

In my current job I started when there was no policies or procedures so I needed to create those from scratch for procurement, inventory management, as well as Mobility within our organization. With the Provincial Exhibition I have been involved in creating, reviewing and updating By-laws for the organization.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

What I learned is everyone needs something different from you, when you are leading. Some need encouragement, some need rules, some need coaching. Its knowing what each person needs. Its about lifting the team up to reach its personal and team goals.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I want to see the District thrive because I believe in what Toastmasters can do for a person, in more ways than just their job. I also want to be able to put into practice the stuff that I have learned to understand it better, and be better.

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

Its about building clubs and building them to have success. How I would help with that is by motivating them to try new things. Stick to the fundamentals that Toastmasters has built as their foundation, but also encourage them to get creative in sharing their story to tell others about Toastmasters and what it has done for them as a person and for their club.

Additional information about yourself:

I have really enjoyed my journey in Toastmasters. I have seen so much growth since I stepped outside of my own club and taken on roles within the district. Its one thing to learn the stuff Toastmasters teaches you but its even better when you can get outside of your club and use that knowledge and put it into action within the district. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

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