

# District Leaders Biography Information

**Name:** Stephen Bryden

**Candidate's Office:** District Director

**District:** 64

**Member Since:** November 1, 2010

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## Education

### **Toastmasters Education Achievements**

Between 2016 and 2020 I was one credit shy from achieving the DTM award in the legacy curriculum. I missed on club coaching. Too close!

May 25 2022 Presentation Mastery 5

Aug 2, 2023 Strategic Relationship 5

DTM Application just sent into TMI March, 2024!!!

### **Toastmasters Offices Held**

I have been several club officer roles over the years between: Licensed to Speak, The Forks Toastmasters and Keystone Speakers including... President, VPPR, VPE, VPM, Secretary, Treasurer, SAA.

### **Notable Leadership Positions**

2018-2019 - Area Director - D64

2019-2020 - Division Director - D64

2020-2021 - Division Director - D64

2021-2022 - Public Relations Manager - D64

2022-2023 - Club Growth Director - D64

2023-2024 - President Licensed to Speak

2023-2024 - Program Quality Director - D64

### **Toastmasters Honours and Recognition**

2018 - Area Director of the Year (Urban) Award

2018 - Jack Gillespie Builders Award

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

- I have progressive experience in Information Technology, Project Management and Product Management. I have lead cross functional teams and multiple project streams to delivery on planned objectives. As a Product Manager I help build shared agreement for translating strategic goals into tactical roadmaps that support the delivery and management of application and technology development.

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## What experience do you have in strategic planning?

- My past roles as D64's Public Relations Manager, Club Growth Director and now Program Quality Director have enabled me to participate directly in Toastmasters prescribed District Success Planning (DSP) and overall strategic planning approach.
- Previous as a Project Manager... I am familiar with business decision making processes and business case development towards initiating projects for tactically achieving strategic and operational goals.
- Currently as a Product Manager... I work with business leaders to create shared agreement towards what is prioritized for funding to support the evolving the capability and architectural health needs of the value stream roadmaps I am responsible for.

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## What experience do you have in developing procedures?

- As PRM, CGD and PQD I have worked with the different committees and teams assembled each year and through transitions, attempting to make repeatable procedures, or socialize core expectations in each of those different roles. This year as PQD I am working with my team to complete the implementation of Club Officer and Area and Division Director leadership training improvements.
- Professionally as a SME I have participated in developing technical processes. As a supervisor I have lead process improvements and knowledge management design for better access supporting process optimizations. As a project manager I have developed project governance to enable projects to deliver with improved consistency. As a Product manager I help facilitate discussions towards identifying systemic challenges and then develop approaches to collaboratively improve and solve them.

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## What experience do you have in the area of finance?

- As D64 PRM, CGD and PQD I have participated in Toastmasters budget planning and tracking process. Each of these roles have had its portion of the District budget to plan, track and manage and spend against.
- My experience as a Project Coordinator and Project Manager I helped estimate budget and resource needs for several projects working with finance teams. During project delivery I am

familiar with tracking project expenses working with finance teams. As a Product Manager I participate in business case development to seek project funding and support project management delivery and product team delivery.

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## What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

- As Area Director I learned about team culture within organizations.
- As Division Director I learned about the chain of leadership communication from front line to senior leadership and back.
- As D64 PRM I learned the importance to understand the organization's vision, mission and values, while getting very clear for what "product" and value Toastmasters offers its members, communities and organizations.
- As D64 CGD I learned the important different between individual relationship building and business to business relationship building. I also learned about value matching a product to problems it may help solve with an organization.
- As D64 PQD I have learned the importance of leadership empowerment through timely and targeted training. I also gained experience in circumstances where sometimes leaders need to make bold decisions.

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## Why do you want to server as a District Leader?

- I am very grateful over the past 4 to 5 years for being in the right place at the right time to participate in District Leadership through-out the pandemic and significant organizational challenges. The challenges faced combined with the learning and development experiences to move through it have been an incredible opportunities to grow as a leader.
- Though challenges it feels good to be able to positively contribute to make things a little better for having served. What makes it even better is simultaneously, I am able to discover, learn, grow and have fun through-out the entire process, along side fellow leaders and members... doing it together.

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

Today I think District 64 has three strategic priorities related to bringing back District health

Continue to build upon District 64's multi year turn around back to health storey...

This includes taking another step of improvement with each of:

- Club health & retention.
- Growing new club opportunity pipelines.

- Building on our new leader development pipeline.
- Getting back to basics with core club programming.
- Continue building club and district marketing muscles.
- Build and grow relationships and peer networks within the District and without.
- Improving alignment to Toastmasters International's core standards and curriculum.

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## Additional information about yourself?

- My leadership style is fairly balanced across all the different styles with slight emphasis as “expressive” leader and slightly more as a “driving” leader. A part of being an expressive leader I love to connect and bring people together for creative discussions. However as a driver I also like to have progressive next steps identified too. I like the feeling of innovating ideas while generating a sense of progression to achieve goals together.