



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Mohanakrishnan G**

Candidate's Office: **Club Growth Director** District Number: **120**

Toastmasters member since: **August 2017**

Education:

I have a bachelor degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering.
I also believe that Education is learning and acquiring knowledge on a daily basis so it continues daily in all the things I do including my work.
I am a Senior Product Manager at Symantec / NortonLifeLock and my job requires me to innovate by learning new things.

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

President - Jan 2018 to June 2018
Vice President Education - July 2018 to December 2018
President - Jan 2019 to June 2019
Secretary - Jul 2021 to December 2021
Vice President Membership - Jan 2022 to present
Area Director - July 2019 to June 2020
Division Director - July 2020 to June 2021

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Competent Leader : July 2018 | Competent Communicator : June 2018 | Advanced Leader Bronze : August 2019
Dynamic Leadership Proficient (Level 5) : March 2019
Team Collaboration Proficient (Level 5) : May 2020
Distinguished Toastmaster via Pathways Educational Program : July 2020
Pathways Mentor Program : August 2019
Individual Member Sponsorship - 5 Sponsor: March 2018 | 5 Sponsor : March / April 2019 | 10 Sponsor (Overall Sponsored 29 Members to the Fraternity)

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

We connect and work with a lot of different people and that is where toastmasters experience and professional experience go hand in hand on a daily basis. Even though Toastmasters as an organization and my organization have different core values, if we look closely and narrow down - it all adds up to the same.
I strongly believe that what I learn in work can be implemented in Toastmasters Leadership experiences and vice-versa.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Be it an Official Project or a Personal Goal Strategic Planning is very important.
Even in Toastmasters strategic planning plays a vital role right from starting a new club, retaining a club, taking area, division or district to the next level.
Usually conducting the Division Conference/Contest requires Strategic Planning to make it successful especially last year with this Global Pandemic COVID-19 around conducting a Online Division Contest required a special strategy and planning. Similarly, I was the Conference Chair for Illuminate '18, The semi annual conference of Division I.
My team & I made sure we plan everything strategically before executing things. One thing we all had in mind is Run fast, fail fast, learn fast and together we will become unstoppable.
One more noticeable achievement through strategic planning was making my home club to enroll 100% into Pathways during my President term (First club in District 82).
I've also successfully completed my Area Director Term despite the Global Pandemic.
Now as a Division Director, My team and I had to come up with Special Strategies to overcome COVID situation.
At work, We follow Agile Methodology and I work on bi-weekly product releases in Agility / Scrum and One common technique I follow is Find the Vision of the project, Analyse needed data for that project, Work on a strategy, Implement the Strategy, Monitor and evaluate the implemented strategy and If it looks right - Continue with the implemented Strategy if not take corrective actions. I strongly believe Efforts and Courage are not enough without purpose and direction and that is where Strategic Planning plays an important Role. As a Sr. Product Manager Strategic Planning is part of daily routine.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Finance! Money is not the only answer but it makes a difference.
Managing Finance comes into most of our lives as soon as we finish school and get into the college.
My First financial commitment was when I joined college and had to take an Educational Loan.
Finance become a part of my life ever since I took the loan because I took calculative decisions based on how much was the income and how much was the expense every month.
Ever since I started earning - I started involving in Financial planning of my family.
At work - As a Sr. product manager, I work with stake holders from primary design till finance and I also work with my manager on the quarterly budgets and event budgets to see how it looks and take a decision on what to add or what to cut down.
At Toastmasters, I've been always involved in the Expenses for the Club Contest or Special Event. Same continues now with Area and Division.
I had a complete financial picture of our Division Conference 'Illuminate '18 as I was instrumental in bringing in few SPONSORS to contribute.
During this last year as Division Director managing finance gave me more learning because of COVID-19. My team and I worked out a finance plan so we manage all events with the Limited Budget.
I am also an entrepreneur with a couple of startups and finances is a crucial part for me to run my startups.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

As a Product Manager at work, I involve in early stage discussions of any new project and products. Any Product / Project starts with "Why this Project? Followed by a "How to take this forward" And that leads to developing procedures.
Irrespective of projects, the stages of developing a policy or procedure remains same.
Need of the Project - Find who will run the project (Team Members)- Gather Requirement - Draft a rough plan on how this could work - Get opinion from other stake holders - Finalise the procedure - Implement the procedure to complete the project - This is what I follow at work and I believe its the same with Toastmasters.
Example: A Division Conference can't be done without planning and developing a procedure. Division Conference - Who will run it (Role Players) - What is required? - Entire M2M Agenda - Talk to Stakeholders like AD, CC and role players - Finalise - Execute the plan on day of event.
Last year as a Division Director, I developed a division website and an Artificial Intelligent for the members to use. This would have not been possible without a proper planning and development procedure.
As mentioned, I am also an entrepreneur and developing procedures is basic need as I deal wit clients on a daily basis.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I've been the President, VP-Education, Asst. Division Director, Area Director I have played various roles in area, division, district conferences and events.

One thing that I realized and got inspired is Servant Leadership and I took the same path in my capacity of Division A Director and it seems to be working well for me and will continue working by the same. I have also learned Encouraging and Empowering Members is definitely giving better results. While that being said, I also believe servant leadership doesn't work all the times. We need different styles of leadership

Its important to provide the Member Experience - Provide all possible reasons for the member to stay, enjoy, learn and teach (Give back) with the fraternity.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

As a Club leader, I was able to inspire a lot of our club members to take my home club to greater heights (1st time DCP10, 1st Time GoldenGavel etc..) and then inspire my Area Members to achieve more and be successful.

As a Division Director one thing that I made sure is to provide a Quality Member Experience especially with Technology during this Online era.

I personally believe that this was possible only by putting the "Thinking Member First" & "Member Experience Matters" moto and

I think it is very important for me to take this forward to the District like all the Past Leaders.

Someone needs to take the legacy forward so "If not me, who else will?" :)

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

District Mission : We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

As a Club Growth Director, I will strive to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals.
- Ensuring that each and every club effectively fulfils its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective and required training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers.

Clubs achieving excellence has been a bit of a struggle in the last two years due to COVID-19 and this will be an area that I'll be concentrating more.

Under the guidance of the District Director, My Team and I as CGD will take the benefits of Toastmasters membership available to greater numbers of people. We will also Plan, develop, implement, and direct short-term and long-term district marketing objectives. We will also Develop and execute programs for new club development, club rescue efforts, club membership promotion, and membership retention.

Additional information about yourself:

Apart from all these awards and recognitions, I have taken many roles. To list a few

Conference Chair Illuminate 18
OTP Trainer in 2018 / 2019 / 2020
Pathways Trainer for TLI Event
Venue Chair in Illuminate '17
Sponsorship/Registration/Venue team member in Reverberation 2017
Registration Team Member in Ovation 2018
Contributor in Ovation 2019
Asst. Division I Director 2018 - 2019
Division PR
Zoom Master in District Conference