



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Raji Bandanapudi**

Candidate's Office: **District Director** District Number: **101**

Toastmasters member since: **2018**

Education:

DTM

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Program Quality Director Jul 01 2023- Jun 30, 2024
Club Growth Director Jul 01, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023
Division D Division Director Jul. 01, 2021 -Jun. 30, 2022
586504 Intel Innovators Vice President Membership Jul. 12, 2021- Dec. 31, 2021
586504 Intel Innovators Secretary Jul. 01, 2021 - Jul. 11, 2021
Area 2 Area Director Jul. 01, 2020 - Jun. 30, 2021
586504 Intel Innovators Secretary Jan. 01 -2021Jun. 30, 2021
586504 Intel Innovators Secretary Jul. 01, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020
6833 Folsom Intellectuals Club Vice President Public Relations Jul. 02, 2018 - Dec. 31, 2019

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Distinguished Toastmaster

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

All my work experience at Toastmasters being a club officer, Area Director, Club Mentor, Division Director, running Pathways adoption at the District 101, ideating We Care Series, club growth office hours and various club growth initiatives as Club Growth Director and now currently as PQD working on Pathways After Hours, Great Events, conference, working with WCPS (Jocelyn Tyson, Vikas Jighran etc) has contributed to my abilities as a district leader. In my professional work experience, I lead a team which is cross- functional and located at multiple geographical locations teaching me a lot about collaborating and leading people through different projects.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

I have experience working on project planning for multiple projects, deciding the best course of action for project and the timelines given. This has taught me the importance of planning, prioritizing and reviewing plans and strategies design to the job at hand effective and successful. I have learnt similar skills while serving through the various roles of a contest chair, mentor, speech craft coordinator and various officers roles. For example, whole planning process for Fall Fusion, TLIs goes through a process of understanding the needs of the members, strategising the content, collaboration, PR and various aspects with the multiple team members.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

In the area of finance, I manage my own personal finances and keep updating myself with relevant knowledge. Working on the district budget taught me how incentives , programs need to be worked out and planned and used for education and training,

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

I truly believe having a process in place makes life easier and I extend my belief to my professional and personal life. Through my journey at Toastmasters I have worked towards simple and effective procedures. When I was VPPR(2018), I developed a template for newsletter, PR events and plan for effective PR strategies. Even as a division director, I have established a procedure to be followed for communication, plan of actions and goals my team needs to work on. As CGD I highlighted to my team what are goals each week and understand how those goals can be achieved. By establishing best known practices in place helps have effective on-boarding for new team members. Now as PQD, I have been able to document missing processes on our website, plan for educational sessions addressing member needs and plans for events in a methodical manner.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Through my experience at Toastmasters through my different roles as a club officer, area director and now division director I have experienced that education is the key element in members' journey of becoming a leader. Through the various avenues of COT, Pathways Adoption, TLI, Toastworking and other initiatives I have seen these impact membership growth as well as member engagement. Currently I initiated the Club Growth After hours, during those meetings, members and club officers came forth to discuss the challenges their clubs were facing the various strategies that could work, as for clubs which did really well for renewals we incentivised them by inviting them to a panel which taught me incentives are not district credits but could be opportunities for learning and growth. I want to serve the district in helping members achieve their goals in becoming better leaders through the tool of education and empathy. This year these hours evolved to Pathways After Hours, for more directed conversations regarding Pathways, speeches and any educational queries.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

The reason I want to serve as District Leader is as follows:

1. I want to help and serve members achieve their goals.
2. A district leader has the ability to influence and take decisions which benefit the member's learning as well as grow the district in terms of quality of programs they provide to all in it.
3. I believe this will be the best form of gratitude and giving back to Toastmasters for all the skills it has provided me with.

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

The district's mission according to me, is to help members get the best value out of Toastmasters. I would work to provide various programs and avenues for the members to learn and grow. I want to develop programs which members can use to connect, network and progress with like-minded individuals and achieve the goals they see set for themselves at Toastmasters.

Additional information about yourself:

I am an extremely motivated individual with a vision to create and grow the district into an extremely cohesive environment where members can connect, network and learn and find avenues through education. I desire to help members think, learn, grow and progress in their Toastmasters journey.