

# DISTRICT LEADER (DIV-I) BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: **Agata La Rue, DTM**

Candidate's Office: **Division Director I** District Number: **55**

Toastmasters member since: **2007**

### Education:

Bachelor's Civil Engineering  
Master's Construction Management  
Doctorate Building Materials  
Licensed Professional Engineer in Texas since 2000

### Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

**Area Director 2012-2013 - Distinguished Area**  
**Club President present**  
**All officer positions, electer officer since 2007, most recently VPE**

### Toastmasters honors and recognition:

**Area Director - Distinguished Area**  
**Outstanding Toastmaster 2009**  
**Outstanding Toastmaster 2018**

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

**I regularly provide presentations to management, regulators, and the public. Every Texas bridge is on my desk at least twice, my work covers the entire state of Texas. I manage PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates), a team of subject matter experts, and develop policy, procedures, and training for our state's 25 districts. I prepare reports for State Agency, State Legislature, and Federal Government.**

### What experience do you have in strategic planning?

**My data and input is utilized in Agency 2015-2019 Strategic Plan**

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

**Works closely with Finance Division. Familiar with several programs and ways of financing.**

(DIV-I)

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Currently, and for last 10 years I am leading a group for which I am developing How-to, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), and training at the statewide level. Procedures are developed for PS&E review at various stages of project development to ensure compliance with design criteria and state and federal laws.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

The importance of delegation, how to manage staff expectations, how to fit staff interests with the needs of the team. How to use motivational techniques among unique individuals on a team.

Why do you want to serve as a district officer?

I need that experience to complete my second DTM requirements. I have very much enjoyed my Area Director role. Expanding that role as Division Director would allow me to capitalize on the many contacts I have made and continue to grow the district. I have been growing as a Toastmaster with other nominated DDs and would enjoy working with them to support our mission.

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

Building and supporting clubs through timely training to clubs, supporting area directors in their role, and continuing to train on Pathways during this transitional time to motivate our members. It is key to support clubs, making sure they understand the DCP is their guidance to success, while continuing to motivate through on-going training (TLIs, COTs) so that Toastmasters continue to grow. Similarly supporting individual members in their DTM pursue is a key to support Clubs and the whole District.

Additional information about yourself:

I am assisting in chartering and supporting a new club, Solar Winds, with Jean Ramsey. I am always active as Club officer, mostly enjoying VPE position - the most challenging as well as the most rewarding, even thou I am President now our members learned to depend on my expertise and help. I find this very rewarding to bring new members into the Toastmasters world. People join TM for many reasons, and it is both motivating to hear their stories, and rewarding to be a part of their success. My interests are not limited to Toastmasters. I am 1st VP of a Gardening Club, founder and a member of Austin Polish Society, and Volunteer at One World Theatre (at least monthly) and Texas Secretary of State as election inspector (during statewide elections). I am a member of professional organizations and full time employee.