



Krista Kilpadi, ALS, CL

Nominated Candidate for Division G director

I first joined Toastmasters in as a scientist in training, with a goal of improving my confidence when speaking in front of an audience. I thought it would be good for me, but I had no idea how much more I would get out of my membership than just speaking skills. I was fortunate enough to have joined a strong Club; I received my Competent Communicator manual and started to learn from the more experienced club members. My speeches improved, but other changes came as well. As I filled meeting roles, then Club officer roles, I became more confident in my abilities, and more aware of my strengths and weaknesses. I became excited to face challenges rather than being afraid of them. The effects spilled over from Club meetings into my daily life. The skills I gained turned into successes in interviews, project management, and other opportunities, but I was still largely unaware of the workings of Toastmasters beyond the level of my own Club.

When I became an Area Director for the first time last year, my eyes were opened to the huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to support the Clubs and ultimately provide the best possible educational experience to the individual members. The idea that all of Toastmasters runs on the shoulders of a few dedicated volunteers was an epiphany.

As someone who has benefitted greatly as a participant in the Toastmasters program, I feel it is my duty and honor to take my turn at ensuring that other members can have the same high-quality experience. My goal as a Division Director is to lead and support my team of Area Directors as they help our strong Clubs to remain strong and encourage our weaker Clubs to meet higher standards for the benefit of their members, because the Toastmasters International mission of empowering individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders can only be achieved through cultivating quality Clubs.

If given an opportunity to serve as the Division G Director, I would be glad to contribute my time and effort to benefit our Clubs and their members.