

# **DISTRICT DIRECTOR – Melody Moore, DTM**

1- I'm in San Antonio. How often do you plan to visit us (and other areas outside of Austin)?

As often as I can! I have been to San Antonio multiple times for officer training and contests, and I always love visiting clubs all over our district. I have a full-time job, so my opportunities can be limited by that, but the role of a District Director isn't to serve one geographic region... it's the whole district. Invite me to your club, I'd be delighted to come!

2- Do you plan on continuing to allow virtual attendance for club meetings even after we have the green light to start meeting in person?

Toastmasters International (TI) will put out guidelines that will determine what clubs are able to do with regards to virtual meetings. We have some hybrid clubs that were allowing virtual attendance for some members, while the rest of the club met in person, prior to the current pandemic and within the guidelines set by TI. When we do get additional notices from TI, we as a district will be responsible for following the guidance from TI.

3- What is the biggest area of improvement you see in our District?

We've made huge strides recently in the area of technology. We've had to adjust to video contests, virtual meetings, Pathways online curriculum, and alternative means of handling the regular details of our club and district business. We have an opportunity to continue to use more and better technology at the district level, and we can continue to assist more club members to learn new tech skills.

4- How will you go about executing the mission of the District?

This is definitely all about teamwork. We have a strong foundation and a roadmap for how to handle the details. I love the saying "plan the work and work the plan" and that's what we intend to do. I'm grateful for so many people who are dedicated to helping in so many ways and are committed to building new clubs and supporting our existing clubs. It's great to see so many people united to work towards a common goal. We'll be "Having fun, getting it done!"

5- What is your plan and process to ensure that your team will effectively “communicate”, “collaborate” and last but not least “cooperate” with one another” on meeting District goals?

We'll be meeting together regularly in various configurations to ensure collaboration, cooperation, and communication. The Trio has already had some discussions as we start ramping up for the new program year. We've agreed that although we won't always see eye-to-eye, we will always communicate respectfully with no drama. We're all looking forward to having opportunities for our teams to collaborate, and as you saw during the Candidate Showcase, we have a fantastic team of Division Directors that are dedicated to building cooperative relationships so that we can have a successful year.

6- District 55 was last Distinguished in 2016. What will it take to return to a Distinguished status?

That's a great question! In order to be distinguished, we have to focus on having a great member experience in our clubs. When our members find value in the program and have fun doing it, the metrics follow. I know many people who say that their club meeting is the best part of their week. For me, it's a place where we laugh, learn, and build relationships. We can plan and strategize to meet metrics, and we'll do that, but there's no better way to meet them than to let those checkboxes happen naturally as the byproduct of building and supporting healthy clubs.

## 7- Many said you are afraid of making the wrong decision, so you procrastinate. How are you going to handle urgent conflicts and issues with deadlines?

It's true that I prefer to have time to think about important decisions. One of my strengths lies in being strategic and I feel more comfortable looking at potential outcomes and consequences to avoid disaster. Sometimes that's just not a possibility. As my program knowledge and experience increase, I find that I am more equipped to make better decisions, quickly. And if I still get stuck, I have great mentors to help me out... and also, Kathy Moore will kick my butt - that's the great part of being a team!

## 8- Francis of Assisi said, "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." What do you think is possible for District 55?

So much! I think we can be a President's Distinguished District. I think we can grow the district until we burst at the seams. I think we can change people's lives through this program that offers so many opportunities to learn and grow. And I think we can have fun while we do it all. It might seem impossible, and it won't be easy every day, but I do believe we can do it!

## 9- How can we ensure the long-term success of the District?

We have to plan for it! Bring on the committee! But we can also work towards making success part of our district culture. We have clubs in our district that are successful year after year - their club culture is one of success. I've noticed that in many of these clubs, there are strong mentors who help new members start right in the program, take their first leadership roles, and achieve their program goals. Very similarly in the district, we can ask our former leaders to continue to mentor new leaders in the district. Continuing mentorship will provide long-term success.

## 10- Have you been asking people and setting up your teams in case you win?

Yes! I'm super excited to have several awesome people who are going to serve with us this year, and I'm thrilled that some of our past district leaders have offered to assist with the transition and mentor for those important roles. Rest assured, though, there are plenty of great opportunities for you to be part of the team - come join us!

## 11- Any thoughts on where and how your share of the TI funds will be spent? If so, WHERE & HOW

TI dictates the categories on which the district can spend funds. We as a district leadership team will work hard to ensure that the funds are spent in ways that support the district mission and benefit our members. We're prioritizing education, training, and growth. Volunteer recognition, club incentives, administrative expenses, and travel are always built into the budget.

## 12- What does the District have at hand to support clubs?

Our very best resource is our volunteers who continue to offer their time, knowledge, and experience to new clubs throughout the district! Because of those volunteers giving selflessly of their talents and expertise, we are also starting to have a pretty darn good knowledge base on our district website. We have tons of documents and videos that help our club leaders offer great member experiences in their meetings, contests, and mentoring programs.

**13- As a District Leader what do you plan to do differently in this role as a result of new experiences learned from previous leadership roles, that will help you be more effective and successful as a District Leader**

One of the hard lessons to learn is that we never know what other people are dealing with. It's easy to be disappointed when people don't do the things we think they should, but we each have our own challenges we're facing. I'm learning, every day, to be more compassionate, and to reach out and talk with people in a supportive way, with an open mind.

**14- On June 30, 2021, how will District 55 be better than it is today due to your service?**

I hope that when the year ends, we'll have helped our members grow and learn. I hope we will have introduced new members to the program and inspired people to take another step forward towards their goals. I hope we'll all have spent the year "Having fun and getting it done!"