

Additional Candidate Showcase Questions

Harlan Blumenthal

Division Directors

1. Who was the most influential mentor in your journey to seeking a position in District leadership?

Kathy Moore

2. Tell us about a time when you chose to do something that, although not best for you and your goals, met the needs of others. What made you decide to act in their best interests, sacrificing your own?

Each month I am responsible for publishing the monthly D55 Toastmaster to Toastmaster e-zine. While I have my own opinions and beliefs on how certain pages, articles, layouts, etc., should look, there are times when meeting the needs of my team/constituents/others is more important than my own goals. If my morals and ethics aren't compromised, I don't have a problem sacrificing. Most of the time, it is unconditional, but I am not afraid to let you know when I "took one for the team."

3. How can we encourage members to speak up to address concerns about club and District leadership?

I answered this question during my interview, and nothing has changed. We need to make Toastmasters about them. We need to provide the Member Interest Survey 2x/yr. And engage with them via mentorship and open and honest communication. It sounds silly, but how about we just ask a member what they think of their district leadership. Today, I would say very few people even understand what makes up a district. So – the first thing is to educate members on the structure of a district. Then, and only then, can we start an effective dialogue with members.

4. As a District Leader, what do you plan to do differently in this role due to new experiences learned from previous leadership roles that will help you be more effective and successful as a District Leader?

I like the "hands-off" approach that a few of my peers have articulated. Whether that's conducting actual 1:many meetings w/Area Directors or simply using social media as a means to communicate. I will continue the "open door" policy and help any member of Toastmasters as best I can. I treat myself as a resource manager, held accountable by the trio. If I am representing Division I to the best of my ability and have metrics to back this up, I will be wildly successful.

5. What are YOUR top 3 priorities to assure Division success next year?

1. Retain members

2. Grow membership

3. Ensure members have a voice

As I mentioned during the Showcase, the role I fill isn't about me. It is all about the members and making them feel like we hear them and care about their objectives and goals as Toastmasters.