

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT

127



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FOCUS ON DIVISION F

FOSTERING LEADERSHIP

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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Flourishing In Leadership

In this first newsletter from District 127, the focus is on Division F and is centered around the theme of “Fostering Leadership”.

As an editor of this newsletter, what caught my attention is the *par excellence* of the Division in producing “Effective Servant Leaders”. The District 127 Director DTM Deepa Surendran, District 127 Assistant Public Relations Manager and Past Division F Director DTM Rehna Khalid, the District Award Chair DTM Dinesh Kumar and the Finance Chair TM Mini Warriar all hail from Division F. This corroborates the fact that Division F is one of the best divisions under District 127 in the making of effective servant leaders.

I was inquisitive about how Division F is able to create such a legacy of shaping, reshaping and refining leaders to serve their fellow-toastmasters. They were raised through one of the effective tool made available from Toastmasters International called “Mentoring.”

When mentors educate their mentees to let go of the “I” in their Toastmasters journey and to replace it with “we”, “us”, “together”, “give back to the community”, that is when the miraculous transformation takes place! My experience with my own mentors from the fraternity has taught me that mentors are like sculptors who chisel away all those unwanted layers so that the effective servant leader hidden within us comes to light.

The newsletter further explores why it is so imperative to create a flourishing Toastmasters division that has a profound, phenomenal and positive impact on the District, Region and the World as a whole.

This initial newsletter from District 127 focused on Division F will help us imbibe more wisdom required for successful leadership, to become a legendary speaker and embark upon a phenomenal Toastmasters journey with zeal.

District 127 wishes Division F the very best.

TM Roji Satheesh
Editorial Team
district127newsletterteam@gmail.com

Editorial Team

Influence, Inspire and Innovate

“The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority”. (Kenneth Blanchard)

Fostering leadership is the cornerstone of progress in any organization or society. True leaders inspire, innovate and guide others towards a common purpose. They empower individuals, cultivating their strengths and talents. Effective leadership is about setting a vision, demonstrating unwavering commitment, and leading by example. It involves active listening, empathy, and adaptability, recognizing that diverse perspective enrich decision making. Fostering leadership is not confined to titles. It is a mindset that values collaboration and continuous learning. It encourages risk-taking and resilience, as leaders often learn most from failures. Ultimately, strong leadership fosters a culture of growth, unity and achievement propelling individuals and clubs towards their full potential. “A true leader is one who is humble enough to admit their mistakes.”



TM Vijayalakshmi M S
Editorial Desk

Leadership: One Life Influencing Another



TM Sreedevi Murali
Editorial Desk

Leadership is not about the title or the designation you hold. It is about the impact or influence you have on others. A leader’s intent is to exercise influence and guide others to a collective and beneficial goal. Sometimes it might also require the leader to step in and establish a vision and in other times it will demand leading by example. How do you shape the leader in you? The answer is by becoming a Toastmaster, where you learn to lead. Do join a Toastmasters Club near you and foster the “Leader” in you.

Key words:

Leaders | Opportunities | Influence | Guide | Collective | Leading

Editorial Team

Where Leaders are Made

Going by the common adage - 'Leaders aren't born, they are made,' we might introspect to clarify whether we are living up to that adage. Yes, we are leaders! It doesn't just stop there. We need fostering akin to any plant that is nurtured by the Sun. Undoubtedly, Toastmasters presents us with a plethora of activities. Contests, debates and even newsletters are great opportunities essential for our growth.

Through the Division F Newsletter, we can culminate our writing skills to a crescendo and educate our readers with first-hand news and articles. This will keep members on track with the Division F world. Let's welcome the Division F Newsletter!



TM Rupesh U K
Editorial Desk

Leadership Mark: Self-awareness & Empathy



TM Shabeena Zaidi
Editorial Desk

Fostering leadership in personal lives begins with self-awareness and empathy. It involves recognizing one's strengths and areas for growth while understanding the needs and perspectives of others. Effective leaders cultivate excellent communication skills, actively listen, and embrace diverse viewpoints. They set clear goals, demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges, and inspire others through their actions. Leadership in personal lives also encompasses emotional intelligence and build meaningful relationships. It involves continuous learning, adaptability, and a commitment to personal development. By nurturing these qualities, the individuals can lead by example to positively influence those around them and create a lasting impact in both their personal and professional spheres.

Key words:

Vision | Adaptability | Propelling | Resilience | Emotional Intelligence

Editorial Team

Leadership in Meeting Management

Learning to improve leadership skills will be one of the prominent skills at all times. In the toastmasters environment, providing constructive feedback is the cornerstone. My confidence is boosted and leadership skills are fine-tuned through these fruitful evaluations. Mentorship and peer learning play crucial roles. When experienced mentors from diverse backgrounds selflessly offer their unique perspectives to fellow-members, it will help members go a long way in their Toastmasters journey. I have benefited a lot from my mentor's feedback and also from fellow-members. Furthermore, Toastmaster club meetings provide me with hands-on experience in learning to manage meetings. It is a skill relevant in various professional frameworks too.



TM Dr. Dinesh Kumar D
Editorial Desk

Key words:

Confidence| Refine | Mentorship | Peer learning| Management



Deepa Surendran, DTM

District 127- Director

Responsibility is the Key

Can you share the vision that you have for the district during your tenure as District Director?

As the District Director of this newly born District 127, my vision is to make this a District where all members get a fair opportunity to transform into the best version of themselves, be it personally, professionally or socially. I wish to hear confident voices that say, 'Yeah, this is the place where I get support to achieve my goals and reach my dreams". My goal is to develop a community where members support each other. I wish to create an encouraging space where toastmasters and future toastmasters with dreams in their eyes, can accomplish those ambitions, while operating within the framework of Toastmasters. To realize this vision, I have urged my teams, the Program Quality, Club Growth, Public Relations, Administration, and Finance to work cohesively, hand in hand to give the best member experience to every toastmaster of District 127. As the District Leader, I want to bring to fruition the district mission of building new clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence. When clubs touch excellence by virtue of their DCP points, a ripple effect will cause Areas, Divisions and ultimately the District to become

'Distinguished' in the process. Finally, I want to see the member strength populating at a very large scale so that we remain committed in the task of building and expanding the Toastmasters Community.

What initiatives do you have in mind to enhance the quality of club meetings and the overall member experience?

The foremost initiative or responsibility for our District is to bring back senior members of the fraternity who have left their clubs. The reason could have been anything - the lack of challenging projects or lack of recognition of their service and contributions or even a dislike towards online platforms. My earnest belief in this regard is, "WE WANT AND NEED THEM BACK IN OUR FRATERNITY." This newly born District 127 requires their experience, wisdom and their mentorship both for current and future toastmasters. We are working to bring them back to a community where they will be respected, valued, and looked up to. I want to see them lead clubs and function as excellent mentors and advisors to members, areas, and divisions of District 127. The Leaders Conclave Event organized on September 10th, 2023 was the first brick laid towards

achieving this goal. Senior members were recognized and honored based on the duration of their service. When we have veterans back in our force and they step into the roles of mentors, the quality of club meetings is bound to rise. The enhanced supportive environment in clubs, in turn, will motivate each member to actively set out to achieve their goals. The close association with senior members will accelerate their growth on this exciting and fulfilling journey of self-development. Together we need to develop a culture of support where there is no scope for negativity, selfish motive, or unethical politics to thrive in the district. This will help the district go far.

Another requirement we need to address is to keep pace with the rapidly advancing technology and to take maximum advantage of it. Hybrid meetings can bring in the best of both online and offline meetings, while simultaneously catering to the need for inclusivity, specially of members from Lebanon and other Online clubs.

What strategies will you employ to encourage the clubs to participate in District Events and Competitions?

As you know, the Toastmasters program is an educational program that focuses on self-development. Support from mentors, leaders and other members is readily available to anyone who is focused on self-development. Club Ex-Com, Mentors, Area/Division-Directors and respective Area/Division-Advisors are instructed to encourage members to participate in events and competitions. Effective and relevant education sessions, and

innovative Public Relations and Club Growth programs have been designed to supplement the structured material.

The District is also diligently working towards escalating awareness about events and contests scheduled, through its calendars, posters and videos. The same are being posted and circulated on various social media platforms, emails, websites etc. Information pertaining to the brand colors of Toastmasters International, the values symbolized by these colors and the innovative ways of using them are regularly conveyed to the community. Members are thus informed, educated and encouraged to take part in events and competitions streamlined by the District.

How will you balance the administrative responsibilities of the role along with maintaining a strong connection to the clubs and members ?

Truly speaking the administrative role is something that I don't enjoy much. I find it too monotonous. But having said that I cannot take responsibilities lightly. This platform has taught me to transform even non-interesting roles into interesting ones. To perform administrative functions with accountability and zeal, I depend on the support of my team members. Lively exchanges with them gives me a lot of energy to deal with mundane tasks. Networking has been my forte, thanks to which I have forged several friendships and amazing connections within the fraternity. The Love, appreciation, and assistance I have been receiving from these associations further boost my ability to deal with routine jobs.

At the end of the day, we all have to accept full and total responsibility attached to the position we are committed to, whatever be the nature of those duties. Managing time and resources prudently and being organized is key to striking a balance.

How do you plan to collaborate with neighboring districts and the broader Toastmasters organization to amplify the district's impact?

Earlier when District 127 was part of District 79, we all existed as one entity. As we expanded and became larger, reformation became necessary for easier and more effective management. Now, District 127 comprises of UAE which includes Dubai and the Northern Emirates and also Lebanon.

Geographically, we may have realigned but the camaraderie, collaboration and strength of our relationships remain intact. Without each other's support it would be impossible to fulfil the vision and mission of Toastmasters International. So, it is imperative to perform in the most cooperative and collaborative way. We provide mutual support to our neighbouring districts, participate in each other's events whenever possible, and glorify their achievements whole-heartedly.

When we invited Second-Best Speaker-2023 World Champion, DTM Nisha Shivram as a keynote speaker for the Leadership Conclave event, our intention was not just to acknowledge her prestigious accomplishment. We wanted to express our appreciation and the pride we felt for a Toastmaster from a neighbouring country, Qatar, placed under District 116. Mutual collaboration between districts ensures that we exist and flourish as one family and achieve the purpose we are here for.

Can you talk about your leadership style and how you plan to inspire and motivate your district leadership team?

My leadership style revolves around the aspects of inclusivity and freedom. I strongly believe in allowing team members to perform assigned tasks in their own style of leadership so that they can be more active, innovative, and creative. Only then can they bring out the best output while adhering to prescribed guidelines and deadlines.

If their style of leadership is not aligned to the Toastmasters International Standards, I interfere and guide them to modify their plans. This process ensures that learning is mutual as well. I am a go-getter, and I cannot compromise on quality of work. I want jobs to get done and get done well. I will not bend or settle for less. Whoever has worked with me will vouch for that. As a leader I have enjoyed giving opportunity to others for becoming leaders.



District 127 Director, DTM Deepa Surendran with TM Nisha Shivram, second place winner of World Championship of Public Speaking. TM Nisha Shivram was one of the keynote speaker at the Leaders Conclave Event organised by District 127 on September 10th at Sunmarke School, JVT, Dubai.

I envision a District 127 emerging with more leaders and communicators and look forward to being part of an inspired and motivated community that is ready to welcome and help the next generation of Toastmasters. That is the legacy we need to build for this community.

A Happy District 127 is my ultimate goal.



Sujil CV, DTM

District 127 Program Quality
Director

Embracing Journey to Success

As we step into the path of growth and opportunity within our Toastmasters journey, let's set our sights on achieving remarkable success together. The road ahead is paved with chances for personal development, honing our speaking prowess, and fostering leadership skills that will shape our futures. Here's how we can make our Toastmasters journey more fruitful:

- 1. Set Clear Goals:** Define what you wish to accomplish in short term. Whether it's improving your public speaking, mastering impromptu speaking, or stepping up as a leader. Having clear goals will guide your efforts.
- 2. Embrace Challenges:** Growth happens outside our comfort zones. Embrace speech projects that challenge you and make you learn something new. Remember, each challenge conquered is a step towards excellence.
- 3. Engage Actively:** Participate wholeheartedly in meetings and activities. Share your thoughts, offer feedback, and be an active part of the Toastmasters community. The more engaged you are, the more you'll gain.
- 4. Seek Feedback:** Constructive feedback is the cornerstone of improvement. Be open to receiving feedback from fellow members, and use it as a tool to refine your skills.
- 5. Practice Regularly:** Practice, practice, practice! Rehearse your speeches, Table Topics, and Evaluations. Consistent practice hones your skills and boosts your confidence; Participating in contests will take you that extra mile.

6. Collaborate and Support: A collaborative atmosphere enhances everyone's progress. Offer your support to fellow members and learn from their experiences.

7. Attend Workshops: Take advantage of workshops and training sessions offered by the Toastmasters club. These opportunities provide deep insights and practical tips for growth.

8. Celebrate Milestones: Each step forward is worth celebrating. Whether it's your first speech or your tenth, acknowledge and celebrate your achievements. It fuels your motivation to keep pushing ahead.

9. Reflect to Adapt: Periodically reflect on your journey. What have you accomplished? What can you improve? Adapt your approach accordingly to make continuous progress and if need arises speak to your mentors or seniors.

10. Have Fun: Remember, Toastmasters is not just about learning – it's also about having fun, building friendships, and enjoying the process. A positive attitude goes a long way in achieving success.

Let's make this journey extraordinary! Program Quality Team – District 127 has defined its success based on education, continuous learning and meeting aspirations of the members. Together, we can create an environment of growth, support, and success that benefits each and every member. Once again let's continue our journey filled with fantastic speeches, outstanding leadership experiences, and a stronger, more confident you.

Cheers to Toastmasters success and wishes to every member of District 127.



Dr. Abdul Sathar, DTM

District 127 Club Growth
Director

Unleash Leadership

In the journey of life, each one of us possesses the incredible ability to become a leader. Leadership is not about fancy titles or a corner office; it's about inspiring others and bringing out the best in them. How do we embark on this leadership adventure? The secret lies in the art of communication. Imagine communication as the compass guiding your ship through the vast sea of opportunities. Leaders who master the art of effective communication can navigate through challenges, build strong teams, and inspire positive change.

Let's break it down. Communication is not just about talking; it's about connecting. Take a moment to listen actively to others. When you truly understand people's thoughts and feelings, you create a bridge that fosters trust and collaboration. As a leader, your words are like seeds. Plant them wisely. Choose words that uplift, encourage, and motivate. A simple "you're doing great!" can spark a fire of enthusiasm in others. Remember, the power of your words can shape the culture around you. Leadership is not a solo performance; it's a symphony of collaboration. To lead effectively, embrace diversity. Understand that every team member brings unique melody to composition. Encourage an environment

where everyone's voice is heard, valued, and respected. Great leaders lead by example. Your actions speak louder than words. Be the person you want your team to become. Show integrity, humility, and resilience. When faced with challenges, use them as stepping stones, not stumbling blocks. Your journey will inspire others to rise above difficulties. In the grand design of leadership, empathy is the golden thread. Understand the dreams and aspirations of your team. Celebrate their victories and provide support during setbacks. A compassionate leader builds a resilient and united team. Remember, leadership is not about being in control; it's about empowering others. As you climb the ladder of success, extend a helping hand to those below. Lift others up, and you'll find yourself standing on a summit of shared accomplishments.

Embrace effective communication as your guiding star. Connect with others, choose uplifting words, embrace diversity, lead by example, and weave empathy into your leadership style. Together, let's embark on a journey where every step forward is a step toward inspiring greatness in ourselves and those around us. The power to lead is within you. Ignite it through the art of communication.



TM Viji John

District 127 Public Relations
Manager

Humility: The Cornerstone of Leadership

The cornerstone of fostering leadership needs to be humility, and it always should be. Leadership will always be fostered by a similar organizational culture and a humble approach. Even if it seems easy to fulfill this need and it sounds simple, it's important to remember that simple things are difficult to accomplish!

To effectively and creatively grow leadership, a multifaceted method that incorporates development, mistake-tolerance, transparency, accurate awareness, recognition, and openness is necessary. It is upon these pillars that a humble fostering approach may sustain and should stand.

A humble leader would be liked by all! And who would resist a little fostering nudge! Let us lead by example, inspire and motivate each other to come together and work towards fostering new leaders. Encourage accountability, celebrate successes, and foster open communication.

Let us provide opportunities for growth, mentorship, and ongoing training. Encourage diverse perspectives and a culture of innovation.

Best wishes for Division F leadership team and its members.



Prabhdeep Singh, DTM

District 127 Audit Chair (2023-24)

Being Deeply Different

We live in a world where choices may be countless, but eyeing every choice, there are numerous competitors, each more qualified than the other. To thrive and succeed in such a world, we need to be 'deeply different' so that we make a mark and stand out from the crowd. When I say 'deep' I refer to the intense passion that drives us towards perfection. In this article, I have touched upon five very relevant aspects which includes data, networking, listening, connections, and relationships, and offered ideas on how we can be deeply different in our pursuit of these.

Data

'Data is the new oil' is probably the most apt mantra of the current age, because we produce and circulate huge amounts of data every day. Each one of us experiences the impact of this data inundation on a daily basis.

Innumerable products and services are thrown open on different platforms, and every individual or business house functions with the sole purpose of making us choose a targeted product or service. Very often I feel that even a simple telephone conversation ends up sounding like 'targeted marketing'.

All of us are ultimately storytellers, but we also need to understand our responsibility as creators of new futures. By providing the right amount of data and precise information we can help validate our claims, because consumers like certainty, and look for a reliable anchor to support their choice.

Networking

Networking, another reality and necessity of today, helps us build our personal brand, discover career advancement opportunities, meet future colleagues, and create sponsors who can advocate for us. Networking in fact opens doors of opportunity for us, but more importantly the people who we lead gain advantage from our extensive network.

However, for an effective networking, we must:

- ☑ Know our value
- ☑ Have clarity regarding our goals
- ☑ Develop our own individualistic styles
- ☑ Adhere to a follow-up strategy

The above format also helps us to judge where, when, and how we should network for optimum benefit.

Listening

We tend to value speaking over listening, especially when it comes to leaders and founders, who are often typecast as extroverted, outgoing mavericks. We admire people who can clearly express their thought the moment it crosses their mind. But the ability to listen is a far superior power. Listening intently is more than a matter of good manners; being mindful and genuinely curious can help us uncover new opportunities, discover fresh perspectives, and build a stronger, more resilient business.

We're all human; when we are tired, distracted or stressed, it's natural for our attention to slip. We can use the following techniques to improve our listening:

- ☒ Never lose eye contact
- ☒ Allow the conversing partner to finish speaking
- ☒ Listen for what is not being said
- ☒ Ask open-ended questions
- ☒ Reflect on perspectives
- ☒ Watch your ratios
- ☒ Build a team of great listeners

Developing the power of listening is a continuous process and we need to hone this skill consistently.

Connections

When we spend time with people who influence our growth and development, we gradually establish a foundation of trust and support with them, and these people then become our circle of power. These connections help us leverage shared experiences to make sound decisions, tackle challenges or initiate change for the better. Our circle keeps us informed about new technologies and trending news of the now and happening. Connecting with the right people helps build synergies, and collectively as a power squad we attain the capacity to create a greater impact, and take our businesses forward even during turbulent times.

In any relationship, we get what we give. We can bring value to our connections by sharing useful contacts, supporting business ideas, volunteering for projects, or brainstorming proposed plans. Through connections with people of different cultures, we add the dimension of diversity to our circle of power, a dimension that encourages us to accept and appreciate varied views and practices.

Relationships

Building relationships is key to effective networking. Networking itself shouldn't be our end goal; our focus should be on pursuing long-term relationships built on a mutual exchange of values. It is also important to build relationships before we need them. Whether we are seeking investment for our startup or looking to land on that big client, the strength of our relationships can make or break our success.

Relationships are crucial in business for various reasons:

☒ Strong relationships help build trust, and when it comes to business, trust is everything. Without trust, potential investors will not give us their money, and clients will not give us their business. It's that simple.

☒ Relationships give us access to valuable resources and networks. If we share a good relationship with someone, they are more likely to help us out in times of need. They may connect us with people and opportunities we wouldn't otherwise have access to.

☒ Relationships help build credibility. People who know and trust us are more likely to believe in us. This belief can be an invaluable asset when convincing others to invest in our business or sign on as a client. With the insights shared above, I have attempted to unravel the mystery of being successful. I have also tried to bring out the subtle distinctions between networking, connections, and relationships, which are often considered as overlapping concepts.

I thank you readers for sparing precious minutes in reading this article and I extend my hearty wishes for great success in your career.

You can connect with me or share feedback on prabh17c@gmail.com

Happy learning!



Wilson Dominic Lewis, DTM

Past Division F Director

Fostering Leadership

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." -Jack Welch.

This quote is likely to resonate with most of us and it most certainly echoes my thoughts. Can we be termed selfish just because we concentrate on our own development, focus on our own growth, and strive towards fulfilling our own ambitions? I don't see anything wrong with such behavior. Is that not a part of life? Each one of us wishes to advance and thrive as much as possible. However, there always is a turning point in each of our lives where whatever we learn or achieve must be shared with others. There is nothing more satisfying than mentoring someone and seeing them rise as a leader.

A Chartered Accountant and CPA by profession, I have gone through some difficult phases in my career. I have faced challenges and hurdles at every stage. In such situations, I looked up to my mentors and observed the skills they possessed and practiced. I learned from them, nurtured those skills, and applied them to my career. There came a time when I was able to impart and share my knowledge and experiences with colleagues who

looked up to me.

In my Toastmasters journey, I have acquired many lessons from senior Toastmasters. When it was my turn to be Division F Director, my first challenge was to groom someone who could take up the reins from me. I zeroed in on DTM Deepa Surendran, who was then on my team.

DTM Deepa was new to leadership, but my first impression of her was that she had the efficiency and capability to handle leadership roles. However, I felt that her organization and people management skills needed some fine-tuning. As Division F was growing, I identified roles to assign to her where she could get hands-on experience in managing people. She was made the Public Relations Manager of Division F and was given the additional responsibility of bringing out a Division F newsletter. Division F was the only Division of District 105 to release a Newsletter.

She proved her mettle, and I gave her the nickname, "The Iron Lady of Division F". As we all know she has steadily climbed the leadership ladder and is now serving as Director of District 127.

Some of the attributes that I personally believe leaders must have are :

Credibility:

The first attribute people seek in a leader is credibility. They need to know if the leader is genuine and worth following. A true leader's actions and words go hand in hand.

Communication:

Two-way communication is highly important for a leader. There should be clear communication between a leader and their team regarding the targeted goals. It will help the team to focus and strategize better to achieve those goals.

Emotional Intelligence:

Any group will have people with different natures, behaviours, and emotions. A leader who has the emotional intelligence to understand the emotions of every individual in the team is likely to be far more successful than one who is oblivious to members' psychological needs.

I wish DTM Deepa Surendran, District 127 Director and the entire team a great year ahead and I encourage them to empower new leaders to take up challenges.

“Become the kind of leader that people would follow voluntarily, even if you had no title or position” (Brian Tracy)



Rehna Khalid, DTM

Past Division F Director

The Leadership Insights

How do you continue to stay involved and engaged in Toastmasters after your term as Division Director?

Learning and growth are ongoing processes, and Toastmasters provides numerous opportunities for personal development. Each leadership role we take on in Toastmasters allows us to share the knowledge we have gained from the Toastmasters community. By remaining actively engaged, we continually learn from new experiences, expand our network, and support fellow Toastmasters on their unique journeys. In essence, staying involved in Toastmasters is a dynamic cycle of learning, connecting, and helping others along their path to becoming better communicators and leaders.

Could you share a bit about your journey in Toastmasters and your experience serving as a Division Director?

In 2017, I embarked on my Toastmasters journey by taking on the role of Vice President of Membership for a newly chartered club. Over the subsequent years, I have enthusiastically embraced

various leadership positions, including serving as President, Area Director, Division Director, and District PR Manager. Along the way, I have successfully completed four pathways and am currently pursuing my fifth. Each day spent in Toastmasters contributes to my personal growth, continuously shaping me into a better individual. This journey helped me to make many more friends and got to know great mentors too.

What advice do you have for current and aspiring Division Directors in terms of leadership, communication, and effective management?

I strongly believe that a leader must serve as both a role model and a cheerleader for their team members. Through my own experience, I have learned that each role presents unique challenges. By fostering effective and open communication within the team, we can consistently brainstorm many innovative solutions. Also, open communication is instrumental in swiftly resolving conflicts. It is crucial to exhibit empathy towards team members and have faith in their capabilities. Maintaining passion for your role and ensuring that you derive joy from the journey is the key!

What advice do you have for clubs or districts looking to improve their Public Relations effort and engage with a wider audience?

I hold the belief that every person should have the opportunity to enhance their communication and leadership abilities. As Toastmaster members, it is our responsibility to extend the advantages of the Toastmasters program to the broader community. Each member serves as an ambassador for the Toastmasters program. Through thoughtfully organized public relations initiatives, clubs can showcase the transformational journeys of their members and their activities to the external world, thereby attracting more individuals to join. Remember, everything we undertake is a form of public relations, so let us continue our efforts

How do you collaborate with other club or district leaders to ensure consistent messaging and branding?

Alone we do so little, together we can do so much. We are blessed with talented members. Every toastmaster speaks the same language with the help of branding. Branding is something which help us to bond and connect well. I have a great team with me who are more talented and more knowledgeable about branding. We ensure continuous knowledge transfer with the Vice President Public Relations of the Toastmasters Clubs and other leaders through various platforms including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook etc.

In the age of social media and digital communication, how do you leverage these platforms to effectively promote Toastmasters activities?

Being an avid social media user, I consistently share my leadership insights and accomplishments, which has effectively drawn numerous friends and family members into the Toastmasters community. During my tenure as Division Director, I actively promoted open and transparent communication within the division. To foster personal connections with members, I regularly shared brief messages via social media. This helped me to create a unique bond with members.



TM Happy Raphael

Past Area Director of Division F

The Power of Leadership

Can you share a bit about your Toastmasters journey and how you decided to take on the role of an Area Director?

I joined toastmasters in 2001. I had completed about 30 speeches in 5 years, that time it was ATM Silver. But my work kept me moving around the globe, and I had my regular sabbaticals. In 2020, I took over as President of a new club (in the middle of covid) and that club was a great success. This gave me confidence to take up the Area Director role.

How did your experience as an Area Director contribute to your personal and professional growth?

Personal and professional growth are two sides of the same coin. Area Director role is like a General Manager of an organization. You coordinate with different Managers, similarly I was working with the President of the clubs in my area. This really enhanced my listening skills, my tolerance levels and I could utilize these skills in my organization.

What were some of the challenges you faced, and how did you work to overcome them during your time as an Area Director?

The clubs in my area had great leadership. So, the administration was relatively easy. One of the challenges I faced was, we opened a new corporate club, but communicating with the leadership of that club was very difficult and ultimately it died out.

In what ways did you support and collaborate with the club leaders and members in your area to foster growth and success?

I was in touch with the club leadership on a personal level. Since I was a member in 3 clubs out of 4 in my area, it was easy to communicate with the members and club leaders.

What are some of the lessons or skills you gained from your role as an Area Director that you've applied to other areas of your life?

1. Better listening skills
2. Patience
3. Don't be shy from following up multiple times



TM Kumuduni Rathnayake

Past Area Director of Division F

Leadership is a Selfless Act

Every role that has been designed by Toastmasters International provides you with a greater opportunity to learn and grow irrespective of whether you are a leader or a teacher or a manager or life partner. Similarly, the role of the Area Director Area 21, Division F, year 2022~2023, has helped me to emerge as a better thinker, better listener, and better analyser.

Dealing with humanity bank by promoting the key elements of human life such as maintaining positivism, appreciation and respect for others, are much required transactions to achieve a better life and success.

I became the Area Director last year 2022 ~2023, following an invitation from TM Sudhir. With the help of all senior toastmasters including Division F Director, DTM Rehna and District Director, DTM Rania Abul-Rub, the area finally has achieved the Presidential Distinguished status. I personally would like to thank all the members within the area (Area 21, Division F, District 105) for their contribution towards this achievement.

I believe, Leadership is a selfless act to earn the success by promoting understanding and trust. I wish all the very best for all future Area Directors. Grab your opportunity and grow !



TM Amith Baid

Past Area Director of Division F

Motivation is the X Factor

Can you share a bit about your Toastmasters journey and how you decided to take on the role of an Area Director?

I joined Toastmasters in December 2018 and in 2019 our Vice President-Public Relations left in between. I assumed the responsibility by accident. After a while I started enjoying the role and the next year, I took up the role of Vice President-Education followed by President. Therefore, it was natural to follow Area Director role.

How did your experience as an Area Director contribute to your personal and professional growth?

Though limited in scope, it gave me a good opportunity to engage with prominent leaders and veteran Toastmasters and experience of dealing with mature people.

What were some of the challenges you faced, and how did you work to overcome them during your time as an Area Director?

The key challenge was membership drop as post covid, people were getting busier, moving places and facing increased work pressure. As a result, membership declined and clubs suffered.

In what ways did you support and collaborate with the club leaders and members in your area to foster growth and success?

Thankfully, with the enthusiasm of leadership from Capital and DIC2 Toastmasters clubs, we were able to save struggling clubs and keep them floating.

What are some of the lessons or skills you gained from your role as an Area Director that you've applied to other areas of your life?

I feel more composed and mature to handle delicate and complex situations in life. I strongly believe that motivation is the real key. Once you have motivated people, rest of the things take care of itself.

DIVISION F TEAM



Leaders improve the chance of members success in achieving their objectives through effective mentorship, accountability and delegation of duties.

The GPS of Toastmasters

Can you share a bit about your own journey in Toastmasters?

I joined the Toastmasters fraternity in the year 2014 and has been active in the movement ever since. Being an enthusiastic Toastmaster, I have always undertaken Speech Projects with passion and Leadership Roles with enthusiasm. Certain cherries that I picked on the way has been the Distinguished Toastmasters Title (DTM), the exhilarating District Toastmasters Annual Conference Finals (DTAC), the interclub Debate Contest Win, the appointment as Pathways Guide, being an Educational Trainer and the works. More than contributing to the movement, I would say that Toastmasters has showered me with direction, enthusiasm and fulfillment.

How you have progressed to your current role as Division Director?

I journeyed from being Vice President membership to Vice President Education and then President. When Pathways was being introduced, I was entrusted with implementing Pathways in 8 Clubs and it was accomplished successfully. I was also part of two Division Teams as Assistant Division Director. After functioning as the Assistant Area 27 Director, I went on to become an Area Director in 2019-2020. It was a great journey which culminated with accolades as the second best Area Director in the District that year. Next year, I went on to support the District Public Relations Team as the Team Member in charge of Awards. Becoming the Division Director has been a natural

progress of events to contribute back to the movement, given the experience that each Toastmaster gains as we delve seriously in the activities that the Toastmaster program encourages us to undertake.

As a leader overseeing multiple clubs in the division, what strategies do you use in order to foster collaboration and communication among the clubs?

The three main facets envisaged by the role of a Division Director are Vision, Communication and Support. Each leader has his or her style. The past District Director was perfection personified in terms of her leadership and actions. I have to especially thank the Division Advisor DTM Rehna Khalid for her selfless support and that is from where we started and pursue the journey. In order to promote collaboration between clubs, the Division liaises actively to connect the various Clubs, Leaders and Members in the various Division Clubs to support each other.

This year, I have tried to adopt my own style to match with my character and my foreseen prospects for the Division. It is said that still waters run deep and I have adopted a leadership style which gives less visibility to the Division Director and great visibility to the Division and its members. I communicate continuously with the Division Team, the Area Directors, Presidents, Vice-Presidents of Education and Influencers to make sure that each task-player is given the chance to come forward and be viewed in action. This way,

the Division acquires a board full of visible future leaders, who are familiar with the nuances of this program.

Could you highlight some success stories or notable achievements of clubs or members in your division?

We have a myriad of member-achievements to boast of; replete with the array of District leaders right from the top - the District Director DTM Deepa Surendran, the PR manager DTM Rehna Khalid, the District team Members and last but not the least the International Speech Contest Semi Finalist TM Yousuf Al Awadi, the pride of Division F. The Division clubs have been in the forefront when it comes to striving for interesting meetings, achieved tasks and growth prospects.

In your opinion, what sets apart a successful and thriving Toastmasters division, from others?

Let us take our Division. We as a Team intend to make sure that the Basics are addressed and the Foundations are strengthened. The initial months have been crucial where-

- 1) We ensured that each and every club in the Division had their new Executive Committees in place in time to ensure the right kick-start.
- 2) All the Clubs have the minimum number of officers trained.
- 3) 4 in 5 Clubs have every single officer trained.
- 4) Every Club exercised their voting rights at Toastmasters International by assigning proxies for the Annual Convention.
- 5) Active Communication lines have been established with Area and Club Leaders to ensure Support and Action.

Yes, adherence to values and meaningful efforts set us apart as a successful and thriving Division.



Dr. Nisha Varghese, DTM
Division F Director

A Transformative Experience

Division F has been instrumental in my journey of personal and professional development as a Toastmaster, communicator, and leader. Through a plethora of engaging club meetings, educational workshops, and collaborative events, Division F has consistently offered a vibrant space for honing my communication and leadership abilities. Constructive feedback and evaluations from experienced Toastmasters in the division have enabled me to not only take my speeches to the next level but also take up challenges in my leadership journey that I am sure will reap major benefits.

What truly sets Division F apart is its commitment to cultivating leadership acumen. Opportunities to take on roles and responsibilities are in abundance. The camaraderie within Division F is nothing short of inspiring. The supportive environment encourages collaboration and mutual upliftment. Through participation in inter-club events, I've not only expanded my network but also witnessed the diverse talents that thrive within the division.

The workshops and education sessions organized by Division F have been treasure troves of knowledge. From effective leadership strategies to advanced communication techniques, these workshops have equipped me with tools whose application extends beyond Toastmasters. The leadership lessons learned have seamlessly translated into my professional life, enhancing my effectiveness as a team player and decision-maker.

In a nutshell, Division F has been more than a community! It's been a truly transformational platform. It has helped me unlock potentials I never knew I possessed. The positive and supportive environment has undoubtedly made Division F instrumental in my journey towards personal development.



TM Abraham John

Area 20 Director

What is Leadership?

What is leadership – Is it title, position, or character? What makes one a real leader? How can one become a better leader?

These are the several questions that arise when we think about leadership. According to me anyone who has a sphere of influence is a leader. In this world of collaboration and interdependency, can anyone say that he does not have a sphere of influence. When one uses this sphere of influence to bring about positive changes in the world around him, he becomes a true leader.

Leadership begins with self. It flows out of the fresh awareness of self and the way one does anything in life. The leadership journey starts when one understands his or her strengths, weaknesses, values, and vision. Leaders aren't just born they are made. Leaders chisel themselves through constant learning. Acquiring leadership skills is a continuous journey that requires self-awareness, learning, and practice. My leadership journey started with Toastmasters.

After moving to Dubai, I restarted my toastmaster's journey with Dubai Tamil Malayalam Toastmasters club as part of Division F. I then understood the role Toastmasters play in developing one's leadership skills and style. I got the opportunity to work with some great leaders from Division F, DTM Dinesh Kumar, DTM Deepa Surendran, DTM Rehna Khalid, DTM Kumuduni, DTM Nisha Varghese who all exemplified in several

leadership attributes. To mention a few, determination, dedication, resilience and servant leadership in the spirit of continuous learning.

Effective communication is at the heart of leadership. Every Toastmaster meeting becomes a platform to practice that kind of communication. Division F provided additional avenues at various levels to practice and hone our leadership skills. One such opportunity I have got as a Toastmaster is becoming the Area 21 Director. But I know it is going to be a transformational experience where I would be challenged to come out of my comfort zone becoming a better leader in the process. Division F Leaders have shown "leadership is not just about reaching the destination; it's about empowering and supporting the team on the journey".



TM Hemapraba Vincely

Area 21 Director

A Meaningful Collaboration

It has been three years since I joined Toastmasters, and the journey with the fraternity and Division F in particular, has been wonderful so far. Division F has played a pivotal role in nurturing my growth and shaping me as a leader. The supportive environment it fosters empowers members to flourish as Toastmasters, communicators, and leaders.

Some of the greatest strengths that I have sensed of this Division are: Firstly, it has enabled a diverse mix of members from different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to interact. This interaction cultivates a rich learning environment where individuals can share insights, exchange feedback, and broaden their horizons. Exposure to a variety of communication styles and leadership approaches within the division fuels personal growth by encouraging members to adapt and refine their skills based on the collective wisdom of their peers and senior members.

Secondly, within the clubs, I have seen and understood the true meaning of mentorship and collaboration. Experienced members guide newcomers, and provide tailored advice and constructive critiques. This mentorship culture nurtures a sense of camaraderie and encourages a continuous exchange of knowledge. Whenever the experienced Toastmasters support novices in refining their speaking and leadership talents, they not only contribute to individual growth but also reinforce the division's strength as a supportive community.

Thirdly, the Division also gives members opportunities to discover the 'leader' within them. It serves as a stepping-stone for members aspiring to take on significant leadership roles within Toastmasters. In the last three years, I have held many leadership roles within the club ranging from Sergeant-At-Arms to Vice President-Membership to President. These leadership roles offered me chances to organize events, manage club interactions, and foster growth across multiple clubs. I am now proud and excited about being an Area Director. I believe that this responsibility will help me develop organizational skills, build cooperative teams, and inspire others.

Division F epitomizes growth, learning, and leadership. Standing tall on pillars of diversity, cordiality, and mentorship it propels members towards personal and professional success by providing them with the perfect environment to evolve as confident communicators, and effective leaders.



TM Karima Krechiem
Area 22 Director

The Leadership Leap

In the world of Toastmasters, Division F really shines as a place where new leaders can grow and become better communicators and leaders. This division provides amazing support and guidance that have played a huge role in helping its members improve their skills in public speaking and leadership. Going from a regular club member to a district officer (area director) is a big leap. Before becoming an area director, I used to think that only senior Toastmasters who had spent many years in the club could hold such important positions. But guess what? It's actually possible for anyone to do it! The key is having a team that guides, mentors, and supports you under visionary leadership. I know this from my own life. If leaders truly pay attention and want to help create new leaders, amazing things can happen.

I want to honestly acknowledge all my mentors, especially my club mentors DTM Fameeb and DTM Hashim Haleem, DTM Rehna Khalid who was the past director of Division F and DTM Nisha Varghese who is the current director. The whole Division F team has been there to steer us in the right direction.

We're lucky to have experienced Toastmasters who are always ready to support us, no matter the situation. When I took on my new leadership role in the district, I faced many moments where I didn't know what to do next. But each time, the Division F team and my other mentors were there to guide me. I also want to mention TM Zerine, our club president, and District 127 Director DTM Deepa Surendran, who have also been my huge supporters.

Having discussions with club presidents and other officers in the area has given me great ideas and insights. I want to use this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who have supported me in my journey of leadership and personal growth.



TM Arafath Ayyappankavil

Area 23 Director

Nurturing A Collective Alchemy

Historically, the practice of alchemy refers to a mystical tradition that aims to transform ordinary base metals into nobler substances of extraordinary value. This metamorphosis would then contribute towards the discovery of an elixir known as the Philosopher's Stone; a substance believed to grant immortality to humanity. While the practice of alchemy may not be as prevalent as it used to be, it is worth noting that our ongoing efforts to transform ordinary to extraordinary continue to be the driving force for growth and development across all realms of society.

Naturally, the obvious question then is, "What is the most ideal way to sustain this driving force?". As a race, our greatest asset is the element of diversity that each of us brings, both due to genetic evolution and social conditioning. Hence, it is this element of diversity that needs to be given utmost priority. Collaboration is the thread that weaves together the fabric of diversity.

At Toastmasters, we celebrate diversity by nurturing the spirit of a collaborative community. Our efforts are focused on designing an environment that is conducive for all members to express themselves freely without any form of inhibition or judgement. In that sense, we assume the role of modern-day alchemists who continue to discover elixirs from within the community by empowering one another to be effective communicators and empathetic leaders.

To conclude, my thoughts echo the words of an African proverb that goes like this, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together".



TM Habbie Alex Roy
St. Francis of Assisi Toastmasters Club
Division F

Leadership in Community

“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”

This quote by Rosalynn Carter is one of my favourite quotes on Leadership.

A leader should be mature enough to prioritise others and clearly visualise their path. The path they take would determine the life of the dependent. When we think of a leader these could be our expectations.

Sometimes these leaders might be among your friends or community. This was when I started writing in 2017. I gathered my courage and sent a story to my friend, Rama Malar. She read it and encouraged me to transfer the same into a script. She pushed me to a venue which was quite new to me. Now after 4 stage plays, 5 short films and many small skits, I am so happy that I took that leap of faith. The quality to identify others talents and give them a platform made my friend a leader.

Life teaches you lessons no schools or colleges can teach you. When you are put in a challenging situation, you should find a way to make the situation in your favour. One such situation came in our lifetime when we all faced covid. We found a workaround: Online schooling, masks, social distancing, etc. We found new ways and we adopted. The same covid pushed me and my co-director Supraja into the world of digital content and short films.

All these changes were initiated by leaders. You can find leaders within our households and communities. The only thing we have to do is when our leader gives us a push we should take our leap of faith. Who knows the next time you might be the one giving the push.



TM Archana Rajesh Kumar
Dubai Tamil Malayalam Toastmasters Club
Division F

Unveiling the Unsung Heroes: The Role of Leaders in Toastmasters Clubs

Toastmasters International is a renowned organization that empowers individuals to become confident public speakers and effective leaders. At the heart of every successful Toastmasters club, are the leaders, who play a crucial role in guiding members towards their personal growth and development.

Support and Mentorship: The leaders from Toastmasters, particularly, the club officers are there to provide support and mentorship. They help new members navigate their Toastmasters journey, ensure that everyone feel welcomed and valued. Their guidance can make the difference between a hesitant beginner and a confident speaker.

Organizational Excellence: Leaders in a Toastmasters Club manage meetings and club activities. They ensure that meetings run smoothly, schedules are adhered to and members have a structured environment to learn and grow.

Inspiration: Toastmasters Leaders often serve as role models, demonstrating what can be achieved through dedication to the program. Witnessing their progress and achievements can be inspiring for members. This motivates them to strive for excellence, as a leader and speaker.

Growth and Planning: The leaders responsibly set the goals for their individual growth and Club's success. Their forward-thinking approach ensures that the club remains vibrant and continue to attract new members.

Networking: Toastmasters leaders often engage with leaders from other clubs, creating opportunities for networking and shared learning. This networking can benefit us and our club by providing access to a wider range of ideas and experiences.

In conclusion, the leaders in Toastmasters clubs offer more than just administrative support. They play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of growth, support and excellence. Knowing what to expect from these leaders can help us maximize the benefits gain from our Toastmasters club. Their mentorship, organizational skills, and inspiration can transform us into a more effective communicator and leader, while also contributing to the overall success of the club.



TM Kalani Kavindie Edirisooriya
V4U Toastmasters Club
Division F

Division F Gallery

A picture is worth a thousand words

Award and Appreciation Gala



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

DIVISION F, DISTRICT 127

Proudly applauds it's member for being Qualified
to represent REGION 11
in the International Speech Contest at

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL
2023 CONVENTION

NASSAU, BAHAMAS/HYBRID | AUGUST 16-19

CONGRATULATIONS



TM YOUSUF AL AWADI

Division F members wish you the Best for the
SEMI FINALS



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT 127

PROGRAM QUALITY AWARDS 2023-2024

CONGRATULATIONS

For ensuring all the Clubs in the Division have atleast
4 out of 7 Officers trained as mandated by TMI

C
O
T

1st Round

NISHA VARGHESE, DTM
DIVISION F DIRECTOR



Division F Gallery

A picture is worth a thousand words

Award and Appreciation Gala



Division F Gallery

A picture is worth a thousand words

General Gala

People of Determination
Specialty Club 🧡

Volunteers meet up ❤️



@MAWAHEBDUBAI
Toastmaster Club

@TOASTMASTERSINTERNATIONAL

@DIVISIONF_DISTRICT127

DISTRICT RECOGNITION

2 JUDGES TRAINING

TOASTMASTERS
DISTRICT 127
PRESENTS

08 OCTOBER
SUNDAY
2:00-6:30 PM (GST)
GMT +4

SHARON KURUVILLA, DTM
HEAD OF EVENTS & CONTEST

GANESH RAMAN, DTM
LEAD TRAINER

NISHA VARGHESE, DTM
JUDGES TRAINER

TM STEVEN GEORGE
Q&A MODERATOR

SUJIL C V, DTM
PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR



Division F Gallery

A picture is worth a thousand words

Members Gala



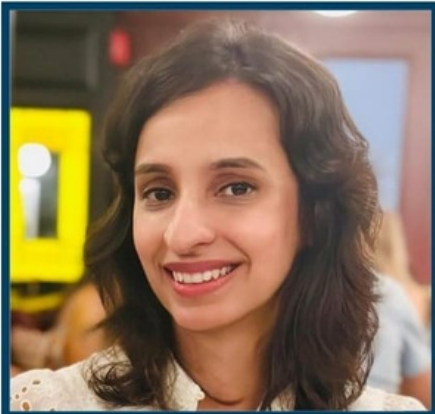
SUJATA MUKHERJEE
VP- EDUCATION
JLT TOASTMASTERS CLUB

“ Toastmasters has been an incredible journey of diverse voices coming together & creating an inclusive space for exponential learning . It is where communication meets leadership . It is an experience that keeps on GIVING.”



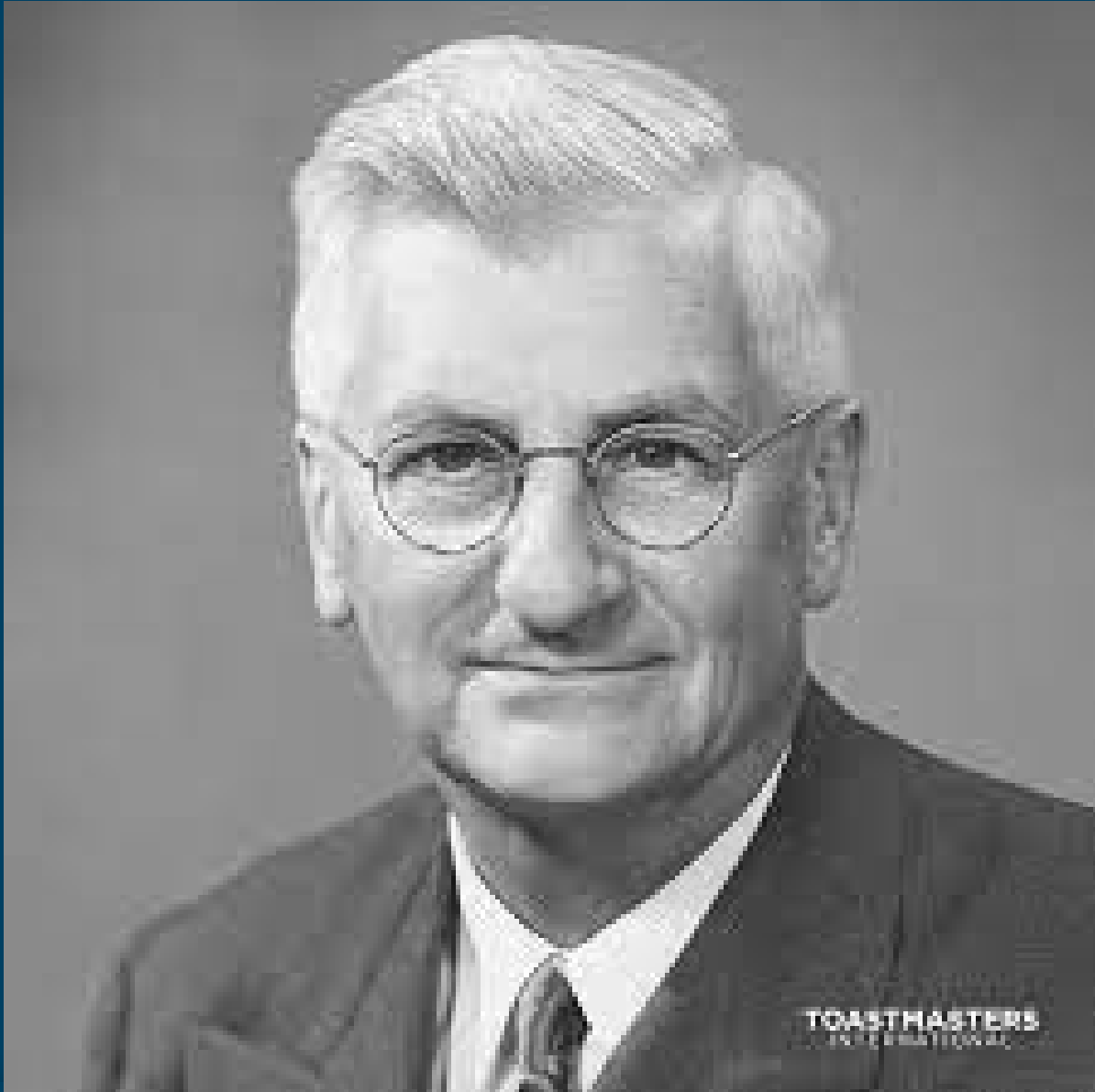
VIJAYALAKSHMI MS
PRESIDENT
DISCOVERY GARDENS TMC

Be Happy you have this life.
Be in the PRESENT.
Do what your inner heart says... don't expect validation from anyone around you.
Keep Smiling and bring a smile on the faces around you. It's Contagious..... but need of the hour!



TM SHRUTIKA SHARAN
PRESIDENT, ACE IT MARINA

"The road to self discovery and growth is taking the unknown path. It's only when you explore the uncharted territories you realize what you are capable of achieving..."



Dr. Ralph C Smedley

Founder of Toastmasters International

"While most of us may have entered Toastmasters to learn to make speeches, that benefit is but the beginning of the good which may come to us and the good which we may do for mankind."