

DISTRICT LEADER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: **Ravi Rai**

Candidate's Office: **Program Quality Director (South)** District Number: **6**

Toastmasters member since: **2002**

Education:

- DTM (4)
- M.S., Computer Science, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, 1996
- B.E., Computer Science and Engineering, Bangalore University, India, 1992.
- Emerging Leaders Institute (2017)

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

- Program Quality Director (2018-2019)
- Club Growth Director (2017-2018)
- Public Relations Manager (2014-2016)
- Area Governor (2006-2007)
- Website excellence Program chair (2016-2017)
- Toastmaster of the year chair
- Youth Leadership Chair
- Speechcraft chair

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

- Phoneix Award: 2016
- Lorin Pollman award: 2014
- District Diamond award: 2012
- District 6 Toastmaster of the year: 2009-2010
- Phoenix Award: 2009
- Lou Novak : 2006-2007
- Area Governor of the year: 2006-2007

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

1. Program Quality Director: lead efforts to train club officers and district leaders. organized club officer trainings at division level. Published newsletters, assisted in maintenance of website
2. Club Growth Director, District 6: lead the efforts to build new clubs while retaining existing clubs. Started the program "Virtual Club Coach." Worked with fellow district leaders to provide guidance on rebuilding club
3. Public Relations Manager, District 6: lead a team to coordinate publicity efforts, contests in the district. Coordinated sharing the use of PR Resources, mentored, trained VPPRs. Audited open/public club websites for accuracy and functionality.
4. Area Governor: Provided guidance, mentoring and assistance to 6 clubs. Conducted speech contests, officer trainings and assisted as needed.
5. Speechcraft chair: provided guidance, developed publicity materials, mentored speechcraft coordinators, assisted with speechcraft programs.
6. Youth Leadership chair: Created publicity materials, provided guidelines, mentored fellow toastmasters to conduct the program in community. Conducted 3 programs.
7. TMOY chair: Defined a timeline, established guidelines and created PR materials to promote TMOY
8. Website Excellence Program chair: Defined the program, standards, judging criteria for District 6. Promoted the program to district leaders and clubs.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

I have worked with district leaders in the past to understand the direction of the organization and participated in discussing the action plans to reach the goals. The strategies included how to retain members, how to increase member satisfaction, how to generate publicity in communities. At work, I have participated in creating annual and long term goals in planning for system stability and disaster recovery solutions in the event of catastrophic failures. We planned for recovery sites, procedures to follow and defined monthly DR testing. As part of Diversity and Inclusion committee, I have participated in planning for events, resources, teams and worked with management to get buy in for employee participation.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

As Program Quality Director, I participated in discussions related to district finances. Participated in creating the budget for district 6. I also analyze & approve expenses for district leaders. I have served as the Treasurer of our club several years. This involved keeping the books current, collecting membership dues, making timely payments. Assisting with program expenses and other events for the club.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

- On several occasions I have had to develop procedures to create a new process. The following are few examples:
- WEP: defined the important aspects of the program. What to check for in the website, how to submit, what to judge and how to conduct the reviews
 - Reporting Services: Developed procedures on how to create reports, migrate them to production. How to set security parameters, how to publish to end users. Created user groups and defined how the group functions.
 - Diversity & Inclusion: The group was revamped 4 years ago. We redefined our work, defined working area, created mission and vision, defined how an employee participates, how different groups are formed and how to promote events.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

- Respect every team member: Make them feel valuable
- Be disciplined and organized: A leader juggles several tasks. A disciplined and well organized person is very effective in multitasking.
- It is very important to build relationship: in order for the people to work together, know your team by building relations.
- Always give team members every opportunity to shine: Do not hog the limelight. Let them lead to develop future leaders
- Monitor progress: It is very easy to lose track. Stay in constant touch with the team to ensure project completion on time.

Why do you want to serve as a district officer?

- The toastmasters organization and its members have helped me grow as a leader. I would like to service my fellow toastmasters to help others grow in this area.
- In 2017, I obtained a formal & extensive education in state leadership from Emerging Leadership Institute.
- I wish to continue to let District 6 be the beneficiary of my leadership training
- I took an oath when I was being granted the citizenship of United States that I would serve my community. I think serving Toastmasters as a district leader fulfills my oath to my community.

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

- Retain members: Ensure that our members are getting the real value of their membership.
- Build new clubs: Promote Toastmasters in organizations who could benefit from having Toastmasters club as part of their training program.

Additional information about yourself:

I have been a toastmaster for 16 years. I feel blessed to have Toastmasters organization in my life. I value the relationship build over the years with fellow members. Members make a big difference in the life of fellow Toastmasters. There is never enough words to thank fellow toastmasters whom I wish to continue serving. I believe that every Toastmaster is a leader. Toastmasters is a great place where we all work together to hone our leadership skills to transform the world. I have earned three DTM awards in my journey with Toastmasters. I am also a professional speaker who regularly speaks at IT conferences to inspire, educate and motivate audiences. I work as a Database Administration Supervisor in MN.IT Services with state of Minnesota. I am a ELI graduate, a premier Leadership program in state of MN. I currently reside in Farmington with my beautiful wife Catherine, past District Director.