

# DISTRICT LEADER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: **John Murray**

Candidate's Office: **Program Quality Director** District Number: **52**

Toastmasters member since: **July 1, 2009**

Education:  
**Bachelor of Arts degree - University of Minnesota**

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:  
**Please see attached.**

Toastmasters honors and recognition:  
**Please see attached.**

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:  
**Financial Advisor - 1992 to 2004**  
**Real Estate Broker - 2004 to present**  
**President of Homeowners Association - 2002 to present**

What experience do you have in strategic planning?  
**In my career and in volunteer organizations, I have been involved in short-range and long-range strategic planning. In my career, I have always needed to be self-motivated because I have always been my own boss. I have needed to make success plans to help ensure my success. In my volunteer organizations, I have needed to make success plans to help ensure the success of others.**

What experience do you have in the area of finance?  
**Financial advisor, real estate broker, president of homeowners association and club president at Warner Center Toastmasters**

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

In all areas of my life, I have used procedures to improve performance. I use them in real estate, in my homeowners association and in Toastmasters. In all of my clubs, I have instituted procedures which have been continued to be used by subsequent officers and members. Toastmasters has some wonderful procedural documents which get overlooked on the club level including the Club Success Plan, Leadership Handbook and Moments of Truth.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Surround yourself with great people. The people you surround yourself with can make or break an organization no matter how effective you are as a leader

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

To improve the member experience. The success of members, clubs and ultimately the district begins with individual club members. The district can support, encourage and motivate club members to achieve more for themselves. The best tool at the district's disposal is effective office training.

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

Build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. Effective procedures and planning are key. Improve club officer training to bring a more valuable club experience to members. Help clubs engage their members in the club experience. Strong clubs must have a strong core of members who are leaders.

Additional information about yourself:

My strongest training for Toastmasters has come from my home club, Warner Center Toastmasters. It is truly a world-class Toastmasters club whose success is rooted in procedures, planning, training and dedication to the member. I know how to run a highly successful Toastmasters club. Translating that success to a wider spectrum requires the motivation of club officers and members. Area directors are the most important district officers. They can have a direct impact on club officers and members by being a source of motivation and inspiration. If they are not committed to their role as Area Director, weak clubs will continue to struggle and ultimately fail. Only strong clubs can survive without strong district leadership