



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Anne Gilson, DTM, PDG(83), PRA

Candidate's Office: Division F Director

District Number: 83

Toastmasters member since: 2006

Education:

Masters in Business & Science (MBS): Rutgers New Brunswick, 2016 (Drug Discovery & Development) MS:
Rutgers Newark, 2001 (Biology)
BS: Stevens Institute of Technology, 1994 (Chemical Biology)

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Area Governor 2010-2011; Division Governor 2011-2012; Lt. Gov. Marketing 2012-13; Lt. Gov. Education & Training 2013-2014; District Governor 2014-2015; Region 9 Advisor 2019-2020. DLC Chair 2016, 2018, 2021 (District 119). DTM Chair 2018-2019. Conference chair 2024.

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Area Governor of the Year 2011; Division Governor of the Year 2012; Excellence in Education & Training award for 2014

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

There used to be a funny saying around District 83 that stated "being a Division Director is like herding cats". I am currently an adjunct professor at two community colleges (Ocean County College and Brookdale Community College). Getting college students to read, pay attention, turn off their phones, and follow directions is more like "herding cats" than serving in a District office, in my experience! I think I'm ready to step back into the fray.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

I served in District Trio from 2012-2015 and as Region Advisor for the 2019-2020 Toastmasters year. Strategic planning is a key part of all roles - especially serving as a Region Advisor the year the pandemic hit.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I served as Club Treasurer for Talk of Monmouth for its first two years, and for the former ACES club for a couple of years. I also had fiduciary responsibility for District 83 as District Governor for the 2014-2015 Toastmasters year. I've managed budgets for clubs and a district; I can handle it for a division.

I have done this as part of my day job (at several companies) and also as part of the process of establishing new clubs.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I've learned that you can't get much done without a team, so I am looking forward to working with the Area Directors and clubs in Division F. I've also learned that I don't have all of the answers, so I plan to stay in close contact with presumptive DD Kadian and her team about district resources and activities. Since 6+ minds are better than one, I also hope to collaborate with my fellow Division Directors to share best practices and help each other work through snags.

I previously served as Division Director for the 2011-2012 Toastmasters year, when everything took place in person. My clubs currently meet online/hybrid and while there is tremendous value in that, I also have the experience of having run contests and training in person. I see an opportunity to train and mentor Area Directors in my "home" division by bringing that knowledge and experience forward to a new generation of Toastmasters. When I last served as Division Director, two of the five Area Directors on my team became Division Director and a third ultimately became District Director. I'd love to mentor more Area Directors forward into continued leadership.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

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

The District's mission is to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. My goal is to build (or rebuild; we lost several longtime clubs because of the pandemic) at least 1 club in Division F, while serving as a resource to clubs and Area Directors in my division. I also plan to provide support and guidance to Area Directors as needed.

Additional information about yourself:

2026-2027 will be a bit of a transition year for District 83 as we welcome new clubs from New York State and Connecticut. As an experienced Toastmaster and past District Governor, I bring some experience to the table. I can ensure that things run smoothly in the southern part of the District so that the District Director can focus on welcoming in the new northern clubs.

