



District Director Report

10/6/2022

This has been a very challenging year for the District. Covid and high inflation rates has really started to affect the District and we have had to close several clubs again this year and our overall membership numbers have dropped significantly approximately 400 members. However, we have still seen several new members join the District which is encouraging as we start heading out of the worst of the pandemic conditions and start looking to start the rebuilding process which admittedly is going to be a slow process.

The District has been actively trying new avenues of marketing this year and I thank CGD Glen Pearce for all his hard work on this and also PRM Brad Grootelaar for his work with the Website, Facebook and the much-improved newsletter which has added to the District marketing strategy this year.

PQD Kathryn Duncan and the Training and Tech teams have been at their very best this year. I think the level of the club officer training and District Officer training was a step up from last year and I can only thank them for their hard work and dedication to the District.

I am especially proud of the Area Directors, Division Directors and members of the top table who have stepped up this year. It has been an absolute joy to see these people grow as leaders. It still amazes me that Denis McCord our DP is the only person on the District Leadership team who is a returnee. Creating 30 odd new leaders this year is an awesome achievement that the District should be so proud off.

13 Clubs have managed to achieve distinguished status this year which is even more special considering the conditions we have faced over the last year. While we have a number of clubs who are very low in membership numbers, I am hopeful that some of those clubs will bounce back with more settled conditions in which to operate in.

The uptake of pathways has improved, and it is great to see members achieving their education awards however the District should be at 100% across the entire District and this is our challenge over the next year to achieve that 100% goal.

On a personal note, leading the District this year has been the biggest growth opportunity I have experienced as a toastmaster. The support that I have received from the District has been awesome and I can but thank everyone for making my year as District Director something that I will truly treasure. Leading such an awesome Team from the AD's all the way through to the Top table members has reinforced that we do indeed train leaders.

It is my opinion that the District must learn to accept change to survive and that is my challenge to the District over the next few years, accept that things are going to change and help the incoming District and Club leadership teams meet those challenges. Take a chance on yourselves and become the leaders, speakers and toastmasters you are meant to be.

David O'Brien

D72 District Director 2021-2022