

Dear members of District 72.

Thank you for all your contributions to your clubs and District in this first year out of the restrictions of the pandemic. It has not been easy coping with a set of new rules and new working environments. Hybrid contests have been one of the most significant challenges, yet what I see continues to deliver what is required. The impact of reduced numbers at clubs has also tested us, but being able to meet face-to-face is turning this around.

One challenge still with us is finding leaders to keep the District functioning, and significant finding Area Directors. Whenever an International President is asked what was the best role they have had in Toastmasters, invariably each past President says being an Area Director/Governor. The role does have some work in it, but it is rewarding work. I will continually look for Area Directors. If anyone wants to ask me questions about the role, I am always available on +61 419 522 949 or at michael.said@optusnet.com.au. I will welcome the discussion.

My term as Region Advisor comes to an end on the 30th June 2023. I have really enjoyed working with the leaders in Region 12 (New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Brunei and East Malaysia). Their contribution to further enhance this great organisation is extraordinary. The incoming Region Advisor is Matthew Mak. Matthew will be an exceptional Region Advisor for Region 12. Please do everything to make him feel welcome.

I finally want to thank District Director Kathryn Duncan and her team for their contribution to District 72 this year. They are the post-pandemic trail-blazers in this new Toastmasters environment we are in. They were reenergised at mid-year training in Kuala Lumpur and are committed to finishing the year strongly. They have set the platform for the incoming leaders to continue this marvellous journey. As a Region Advisor, they have made my task interesting at times, yet that is my role. They have always been respectful and supportive, observing our core values. I will always make myself available to support new leaders in this District.

Good luck to everyone competing in contests. Whilst only one wins, I know from experience the effort that goes into competing. You all will reap the rewards from this pursuit. And best of fortune to those running for office. Just putting your name forward is a huge commitment to the District.

Enjoy your Conference everyone, celebrate your successes this year and welcome in your new leadership team.

Yours in Toastmasters,
Michael Said, DTM
Region 12 Advisor 2022-23