



Eastern Division Director's Report

18th April 2019

The role of Eastern Division Director has been both a delight and a challenge this year. My personal leadership motto is "be the person you needed when you were younger" and everything I have done this year, I have tried to keep this motto in the forefront of my mind.

Eastern has grown this year in strength and skill. Since 1 July 2018, we have had 2 new clubs charter, a net growth of 76 members (15%), and members have submitted 150 educational awards (68 "traditional" awards & 82 Pathways awards).

My main motivation for taking on the role was to provide strong, professional events, such as club officer training and conference, but there have been unexpected and rewarding personal benefits as well. The district leadership training was fun and well worth investing the time into for both personal and professional development, and I felt that I grew as a leader from the guidance required by my team of Area Directors.

The team of Area Directors this year were fantastic and I would like to thank them for their passion and commitment to their clubs. Terry Sheppard (A7), Bill Krafft (A20), Anil Perera (A26), Katya Skorik (A27), Pamela Greet (A33) and Michael Louey (A37) were a dream team to work with.

I am proud of the two Club Officer Training events we held this year. Of the 27 sessions that were offered, 11 of the presenters were first-time facilitators. Years ago, I would attend training and wonder what it took to be a facilitator. I knew I wanted to participate, but didn't know how experienced and knowledgeable I had to be before I would get the opportunity. I made it my mission to find the "Kate's of 2012"; the members who were ready to step up but didn't know how. It was often an effort to find these new presenters, asking many a club leader about their members, but an effort that was rewarded by uncovering passionate, knowledgeable trainers who I believe will contribute to the district for years to come.

The one thing I decided to concentrate on this year, was asking for help and accepting help when it was offered. I thought this was going to be a challenge, but it was not. There are a huge amount of capable people in District 69 who are willing to pitch in, share the workload, and learn for themselves what it takes to put together events. To *almost* quote Dumbledore, "Help is always given at [Toastmasters] to those who ask for it."

To all of the members who contributed their time, skill and energy to the Eastern Division cause, I sincerely thank you.

To all past and present members of my clubs, thank you for sparking my love of this organisation and continuing to fan the flame.

To the members of the past & present district leadership team, thank you for your tolerance and guidance and support.

To the members reading this, wondering if they can or should take on this role, the answer is a resounding yes. There are frustrations, there is workload, there are expectations; and far from being soul-destroying, they force you to rise to the challenge, and the skills, friendships and knowledge you develop are valuable, varied, and often unexpected.

Kate Norris, DTM
Eastern Division Director 2018-19