

DISTRICT LEADER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: **Rick Pena**

Candidate's Office: **Division Director** District Number: **25**

Toastmasters member since: **February 1, 2014**

Education:

**Bachelors Degree in Business Administration - 1997
Specialization in Management Information Systems
Florida International University Miami, Florida**

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

**President World Renowned Grand Prairie Jan.2016 - June 2017
VP Public Relations World Renowned Grand Prairie June 2016 - June 2017**

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

**Advanced Leader Bronze
Advanced Communicator Bronze**

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

As a Certified Information Systems Security Professional working in support of many fortune 500 companies, I have experience identifying main objectives and risks, prioritizing them and breaking them down into smaller more managable tasks. I work collaboratively with my team members to set achievable timelines and milestones to assure that our resources are being optimally allocated. By leveraging my teams strenghts, we are collectively able to stay motivated and focused in achieving our individual and team goals. These work experiences and skills align with the responsabilites and functions of the Toastmasters District Director role.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

In my 27 years in the Information Technology field, I have been involved with numerous projects and corporations to cost effectively design, secure approval, review, implement, and support a myriad of strategic plans. Most recently working as an Information systems senior consultant, I contributed to the design and implementation of the corporations strategic incident response plan.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

As president of World Renowned Grand Prairie Toastmasters, I have been intimately involved with our clubs financial reports and budget. Additionally, I formerly ran several business including a Mortgage Brokerage, Real Estate, Financial Planning, and Electrical Contracting business. I have experience optimizing income while streamlining costs. Apart from being extremely resourceful, I am cost aware, cost conscience and cost efficient.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

As an Information Systems Security Professional. I have worked in designing, securing approvals, reviewing, implementing, and updating corporate policies, procedures, and processes. I work closely with high level management to assure the corporation is compliant with HIPPA, PCI, SOX and other government and corporation regulation bodies.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

All of us working collectively and for the same cause are smarter, faster, and more efficient than any one of us individually. Working as a united team with a shared vision that is clearly understood and communicated to all of our team members will guarantee our individual and team success. Excitement, Energy, and Passion must be created and maintained throughout our journey to achieve excellence and our vision goals.

Why do you want to serve as a district officer?

As president of World Renowned Grand Prairie Toastmasters I learned many things that I believe can be leveraged and shared at the Division Director level. In my efforts to grow our club, I noticed that many clubs throughout the Toastmasters organization were generating new members almost effortlessly and have simultaneously improved their member retention rates. I want to share these insights and have them imbedded into our Area and Division processes.

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

To achieve and maintain Excellence in service while simultaneously stimulating club numbers and growth which includes improving club retention and having FUN along the way. To achieve these goals we have to work collectively in a friendly, fun, supportive and respectful environment. I know first hand the frustration of trying to grow a club and maintain valuable members. I have learned some low cost, easy to implement solutions that will start to create the momentum that will eventually snow ball into an effortless stream of new members and improved retention.

Additional information about yourself:

I am a veteran of the United States Navy. I believe in constant and never ending self-improvement. As such, I am inspired by the work of Dr. Stephen Covey, David Marquet, and Anthony Robbins. Since joining Toastmasters, I have been able to implement some of the material I learned from these and other mentors including my Toastmasters mentor Tracy McConnell. I am eternally grateful to Toastmasters for the environment and tools they have provided me. This environment has fostered my journey into Self Actualization and a more meaningful purpose. I look forward to serving the Toastmasters community and extending these benefits to all of our existing and future members.