



Program Quality Director Report

28th July 2024

What a whirlwind it has been since coming into this role at the end of February! Straight into club visit reports and joining the district conference committee, along with getting my head around the education needs of the members and clubs.

The annual conference was such a fabulous event, with many educational and keynote sessions organised around the business meeting, which is the only reason we have the conference. The contests, were of a high standard and very enjoyable and I learned so much from both the workshop and keynote speakers, as did many of the attendees, I have spoken with. The highlight for me was reconnecting in person with many friends, I haven't seen for years, sharing tips and hacks around making the most from Toastmasters. Thank you to the Dunedin committee for a marvelous weekend and all of your hard work, you had my passion for the organisation running high as I was inspired, well fed and entertained for the three days.

Congratulations to the 21 clubs who have achieved Distinguished status in the DCP programme for the year. This demonstrates a healthy club, that is attracting new members, retaining existing members and meeting needs by working the pathways programme. Thank you for your hard work as this is not an easy accomplishment. This does remind me that all speeches must be from Pathways as it is the only education programme we have, and it has been in place for many years now. We are not serving members well if the club is not engaged in the education programme and for new members, we are not showing them the full offering of the organisation.

Thank you to Glen and the District team for welcoming me into the team, late in the year and especially to those who completed all the duties in their role as it made my transition so much easier in the areas that had all the club visit reports submitted. These reports are the only way District can see the achievements and needs of a club, unless the club contacts us directly. Serving as a District leader is definitely a lot of work, however it is a role I take seriously as I have made a commitment to members to serve them and they expect me to perform all aspects of my role.

As I came late in the year, the education was not what I would have hoped to achieve, if I had the full year to plan and organise events and I apologise for that. It was difficult to find people to run workshops at the tail end of the year when everyone was very busy with other events. The lack of education/training events and member attendance at COT sessions is reflected in the low number of clubs achieving Distinguished, which is something D72 has proudly done very well with when measured against all the Districts internationally in the past and it would be great to see us become a world leader in this again. There's a challenge for us for next year! A huge thanks goes to incoming Division D director Jo Moar for seizing the education challenge and to Celina and David Templeman and Bailey Wood for putting on a great full day workshop at the end of June. Feedback from the event has been very warm and these events appear to be something members are keen to attend and see more of.

Thank you to the members for your membership, and the daily reminder of "my why" when it comes to Toastmasters. I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Carol Mitchell

Program Quality Director 2023-2024