



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Sherry Thompson**

Candidate's Office: **Division C** District Number: **65**

Toastmasters member since: **2014**

Education:

AAS Fisheries and Wildlife Technology 1989
AAS Veterinary Techology 2003

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

I've held offices at the club level of SAA, Treasurer, VP Ed, Secretary, VPPR, and President multiple times. I'm currently the Area 34 director.

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Triple Crown.
I've finished the CC and CL in the legacy program, and Level 5 of Competant Leadership.

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

I am a hospital manager at a veterinary hospital. I have to lead a group of people that are well trained and very desirable to other local hospitals. I need to maintain a profitable business, while keeping employees happy and engaged.
It's difficult enough to encourage people being paid to do the work. Getting volunteers to work hard is incredibly harder. I've had a lot of practice.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Most of my planning has to do with my work. I entered my current position knowing that I was working toward a 3 year plan with many toxic employees. It's currently 4 years, and I have the team I wanted when I started.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have been club treasurer for Finger Lakes Rabbit Breeders for 6 years. I am currently treasurer for Canandiagua Community Toastmasters.
I also have to balance expenses and income at my veterinary hospital.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

I have written training manuals for veterinary work, that I know well. I also served as Superintendent of the Rabbit barn at our county fair for almost 10 years, and changed how the barn was set up and how the shows were run.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

People don't do things just because you say so. They need to understand why they are putting time and effort into what I am asking them to do.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I am pursuing my DTM. I also have found that I've really enjoyed attending other club's meetings, and this is a good reason to do this. I also think that we have the best District team that I've seen since starting Toastmasters. I want to serve with them.

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

My goal would be to support and maintain our current clubs. Growth is important, but losing clubs to dissolution is not good either. I want to work with the clubs to increase their members and become strong clubs. I will encourage new clubs, but my personal focus will be to support the existing clubs.

Additional information about yourself:

I started my own small business when I was a teenager. I showed, bred and sold rabbits. This income paid for much of my college education. My daughter took over my love of rabbits, and is currently doing the same thing - she's one of the top mini-rex breeders in NYS. I can't take credit for "now", but I guided her with the styles of cages that would work best, record keeping with expenses and income, etc. Essentially, I set up the rabbitry to become self-supportive and trained her as a manager. I also have stayed very active with the 4-H program in Ontario County. I teach, train, and volunteer wherever they need me.