District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Nico Martin

Candidate's Office: Club Growth Director

District Number: 33

Toastmasters member since: March 1, 2019

Education:

Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA)
Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE)
Diploma in Computer Programming
Certified ScrumMaster (CSM)
Project Management Professional (PMP)

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Secretary Simi Valley Toastmasters- July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020
VP of Education TGIF Toastmasters - July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
Area C1 Director - July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
President TGIF Toastmasters - July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
Division C Director - July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

2019-2020 Division C Humorous Speech Contest - 1st Place
2019-2020 Area C2 International Speech Contest - 2nd Place
2020-2021 District 52 Speech Contest Judge
2020 (March 18) Menu Masters Toastmasters Charter Member
2020-2021 Area C1, C3 & C5 Speech Contest - Contest Chair
2020-2021 Certificate of Achievement (Area C1 Director) Distinguished Area Status
2020-2021 Certificate of Achievement (Club Member) President's Distinguished Status
2020-2021 Certificate of Achievement (Club Member) President's Distinguished Status
2020-2021 Award Plaque District 33 Above & Beyond Toastmaster
2021 (July 28) ToastmastNERDS Toastmasters Charter Member
2021 (December 20)) TM Studios Toastmasters Charter Member and Club Sponsor

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

I have been a Senior Controls Engineer/Project Manager for the Walt Disney Company Corporate Real Estate Department where I had been managing big Capital Projects, allocating resources, and leading people. I am also served as a Board of Director for the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center Foundation from October 2019 until December 2021 where I have made critical decisions together with the other Board of Directors. I recently (11/28/21) passed my Project Management Professional (PMP) where the primary focus was to lead people, and manage Capital project budget, resources, schedules, quality, scopes, risks, stakeholders, communications & procurements.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

I am the team leader for the Electrical and Control Systems Asset Management where I led the creation of a 5-year plan to make sure that our 3 facilities will continuously operate with minimal downtime. We developed the strategic plan and allocated the resources. The 5-year asset management plan was to do an inventory of all our electrical and control systems equipment/devices, categorize them according to current usefulness, prioritize them according to criticality such as safety, life cycle, operations downtime impacts, etc. and evaluate them according to what the management could fund each year.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

As the Project Manager at my workplace, I have presented proposed projects to the higher-ups for project approval and funding. In managing my project I made sure that the project was completed on time and under budget. I managed each project's budget from funding requests, contracts, changed orders, invoiced approvals, monthly project status reports to closing the project budget. As Board of Director at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center Foundation, I had the opportunity to review/approve expenses, investments, and all the money that came in and out of the foundation.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

As the Engineer at my workplace, I developed Electrical and Control Systems standard operating procedures, guiding principles, and protocols in order, to make the work easier, safer, and more efficient for other Project Managers, Engineers, and Technicians.As the Project Manager, I required my vendors/contractors to always provide/submit startup, shutdown, test, and abatement procedures prior to starting any critical task/work.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I learned that we can get a lot of things done and resolve a lot of issues by using a great tool such as a well-prepared and controlled meeting. I learned to spend a great amount of time building great working/professional relationships with my Direct Reports through 1:1 meetings and other opportunities to talk/socialize. In hosting a meeting, I learned to always use an agenda, start on time, and end on time or earlier. I learned to control the meeting flow on who will need to speak, when to move to the next item on the agenda, and always allow time in the end of the meeting to give everyone a chance to speak. I learned critical thinking especially on giving constructive criticism. I learned how to lead by being responsible for initiating the conversation, following up to the completion, empowering others, showing myself as a good example inspiring and motivating others. I learned to own my area and be responsible for everything that happened whether it was directly or indirectly related. I learned to act, behave and talk as a good leader. I also, learned that I love leading and I want to do more of it.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I want to serve as the 2022-2023 Club Growth Director to lead the membership growth program, to promote membership retention program, to lead club rescue efforts, and lead in bringing them up to Toastmasters Standard of Excellence. Another reason is, I will get to lead the development and direct programs for new club (community & corporate) development and club membership promotion. Also, I will get to lead in planning, developing, implementing, and directing District marketing objectives. Achieve Distinguished District goals for membership and club growth. Promote Standards of service to the member and to the club.

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

In my opinion, the District Mission's major objectives are to provide support to all the clubs in the District to achieve distinguished status, retain clubs/members, and build new clubs. I will work to establish exceptional leadership connections and collaborations with the District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Committee, Division Directors, Area Directors and clubs in the area by meeting with them, visiting them, hearing their success stories and challenges, as well as, discuss with them how to achieve the Toastmasters yearly success plan. I will work with the District33 leadership team to achieve the District Success Plan such as membership marketing drives, club membership promotions, club rescue efforts, retention programs, and building a new corporate/community. I will also participate and support the District Executive Committee.

Additional information about yourself:

This role will give me the opportunity to work on my communications and leadership skills. Also, it will expand my networks at the District and Regional levels. I will learn more about the Toastmasters Organization in a much deeper sense. Lastly, this is a great opportunity to practice how to be a great leader the Toastmaster way, enjoy collaborating/learning with other leaders, and at the same time mentoring others to do the same.

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