



District Director Report

October District 54 DEC Meeting

Opening Statement:

What makes a great leader? Experience? Knowledge? Determination? Compassion? Recently I got a great reminder from an unexpected place of what a great leader should be made of. In my local club we have an individual that hasn't been a Toastmaster very long. He has a young student, full of energy and determination. Because of these traits we encouraged him to become an officer of the club.

He excitedly accepted and has been a spark plug of an officer so far this year. Because of how new he is, many of the other officers have tried to guide him and give him knowledge of the office he holds. Many of the lessons come from the more experienced, however there is one big lesson we have learned from him.

Compassion... On top of learning his role he has worked to learn about our members. While we all have been focused on teaching him the role and being focused on keeping the wheels on the club, he is taking time to understand who makes up that club. He sent a message in our officer group, and he ended his message with "It's also our duty to check on our members."

Wow, what if we all took a moment to take some time to check on our members? Would we be better leaders? Would we be great leaders?

District Vision and Mission:

The first round of renewals just ended. As of this morning I checked the numbers and here is where we stand. The total number of renewals is 686. The number of new members is 91, and the number of charter members is still 0.

If I had done this correctly, we had about 100 members that did not renew their membership. Do we know why those 100 members left? It is a hard conversation to have, but it's also our duty to check on our members!

Do we know why those 91 new members joined? It is an easy conversation to have because it's also our duty to check on our members!

As district leaders we need to take this idea and share it with our club leaders. We need to invest into our members. Just like this new officer explained, it is our duty!

Final Thoughts:

We celebrated our centennial this last week. If we look back at the start of this organization, we can recognize the great leader we had. Dr. Ralph Smedley was determined, working at getting this started for 2 decades. He was knowledgeable based upon the education he received and the experience he gained from working at the YMCA's he was at. But in the end, I truly believe his dream of Toastmasters became a reality because of his compassion towards all the young men that he led. Let's make it our duty to check in on our members!