



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Irina Nizhnik**

Candidate's Office: **Division District J or I** District Number: **55**

Toastmasters member since: **October 2018**

Education:

1) MBA, MA, BA as well as several certificates in computer science (coding). 2) Completed 4 pathways and currently working on my Vision Commucation Pathway and DTM

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

1) Area Director J64, 2024-current 2) Area Director J63, 2023-2024 3) VP of Education 2024-2025, Aim High Toastmasters Club in Austin 4) Club President 2020-2022, Immediate Past President 2022-2023, HHS Toastmasters in Chicago 5) Treasurer 2019-2020

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

1) President's Distinguished 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 2) Completed 4 pathways: leadership development, Innovative planning, pathways mentor program, persuasive influence, and SpeechCraft program.

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

1) Organizing area contests and club contests, Pathways training, Area visits reports, facilitating area council meetings 2) Project management, management, analytics, grant writing, and research.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

1) Area and club strategic planning, educational planning, club and area strategic planning in achieving goals 2) Project Management & Grant writing

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have some experience in finance from MBA and professional work

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Both in my grant writing and project management, I gained experience in developing procedures: 1) identified the need and scope, 2) collected data, 3) developed procedures/processes to achieve a goal, 4) engaged and ensured effective communication process, 5) implemented and monitored the project

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

1) problem-solving 2) decision-making 3) planning 4) team-building 5) effective communication 6) adaptability 7) strategic thinking 8) delegation 9) motivating members and leaders

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I joined Toastmasters in 2018 to take my presentation and public speaking skills to the next level. I served as a Club President for two consecutive years (2020-2022, achieved Distinguished President's Awards) as well as have built a meaningful network within Toastmasters International at district, regional, and national levels. Now, looking for a new challenge withing Toastmasters to broaden leadership experience.

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

District mission is to "build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence." In my view, this can be achieved by: 1) increasing outreach, 2) training leaders in how to retain and bring more members, 3) utilizing social media and marketing to reach people interested in strengthening communication and leadership skills, 4) maintaining regular communication and visitation contacts with clubs in addition to addressing their needs for improvement, 5) continuing to organize contests, provide recognition programs to incentivize leaders to strive for excellence.

Additional information about yourself: