



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Lee Finley Samson**

Candidate's Office: **Division C Director**

District Number: **35**

Toastmasters member since: **August 1, 1997**

Education:

B.S. in Computer Science and Statistics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, August 1989

M.S. in Cartography, University of Wisconsin, Madison, January 1993

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Current (2021-2022) Club Offices: President, Treasurer Capital City Club (2953)

Area Director 2020-2021 Area C1, 2021-2022 Area C3

Area Governor 2001-2002 Area C1

Since 12/1/1997 I have been in each club officer role at least once

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Innovative Planning 3 (IP3) August 26, 2020

Persuasive Influence 1 (PI1) December 18, 2021

Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG) October 26, 2011

Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB) March 29, 2014

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

I work at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a Geographic Information System Administrator. Toastmasters has helped me in my work to provide leadership, direction and oversight for developing and managing GIS Server infrastructure. Every Toastmasters leadership role I have taken (Club, Area) has helped me in my work.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

As part of my work at the DNR, I have to do regular strategic planning. I am responsible for developing systems used by the whole organization and people through out the state. I am responsible for setting the direction and making decisions on allocating resources to develop systems in the short term (1-2 years) and longer term (3-5 years).

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have experience as part of a team working on budgets for the DNR. I have also been my club's treasurer more than 10 times since 1997.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

As part of my work at the DNR, I am responsible for developing clear procedures and guidelines for both technical and non-technical audiences.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

My past leadership positions definately helped me appreciate the power of soft skills: listening, critical thinking, problem solving, delegation.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I appreciate the work that I see the existing division directors doing and I think I can contribute to this work.

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

One critical part in building new clubs and supporting all clubs in achieving excellence is getting back to in-person meetings and events. Some clubs have already made this transition and some are still working on it. I would learn the best practices for doing this by talking with the clubs in the division. I would then communicate this to others in the division.

Additional information about yourself:

As expected from a geographer/cartographer I have done a bit of traveling (Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, US, Mexico, etc). This has helped with my cultural literacy soft skills.