



**Jason P. Feucht, DTM**

Immediate Past District Director

District 35

email: [jfeucht.tm@gmail.com](mailto:jfeucht.tm@gmail.com)

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District 35 Toastmasters,

It has been my honor to serve this year as your Immediate Past District Director.

In my report at the September business meeting, I spoke briefly about the role of the IPDD. I'll say now—this role has been a change of pace from the different roles I've held over six of the past seven years as a District Executive Committee member, especially the last three years as part of the Trio. I've truly appreciated the opportunity to serve in a more advisory capacity this Toastmasters year. It's been a privilege to act as a sounding board and counselor to this year's Trio and to support other members of the District Executive Committee.

I want to express my gratitude to Yuriy, Theresa, and especially our current District Director Robert for their trust—and for keeping me busy enough to, as I like to say, stay out of trouble.

As I wind down my time on the District Executive Committee, it's only natural to reflect on my own Toastmasters journey. Many of you have heard parts of my story through previous reports and speeches. But today, I believe it's more important to encourage you to think about the next part of your story.

Your Toastmasters journey doesn't have to follow anyone else's path. Whether you're stepping into leadership, mentoring others, or becoming a more confident speaker, ask yourself: what's the next step that challenges and inspires you? The next chapter of your story is yours to write—make it bold, make it meaningful.

Today, we elected new leaders for our District. I encourage each of you to remember the District Mission: to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. Respect the foundations laid by past and current leaders, but also look to and embrace the future. The past is behind us—we can't turn back time—and the Toastmasters of today is very different from the Toastmasters of five or ten years ago.

Soon, our clubs will also be electing new club officers. I encourage all of us, as club members and leaders, to focus on our members and to live out the Club Mission where "We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth."

Remember, all you can do is the best you can in the role you have in Toastmasters. If you are a member, be the best member you can. If you are a District Officer, be the best District Officer you can. If, at the end of your term, you can say you did your best—then you have truly been successful.

If we stay grounded in the basics of Toastmasters, we will all learn, grow, and succeed—together.

As the Founder of Toastmasters, Dr. Ralph Smedley, once said: “Let us share the benefits we have gained for ourselves with others.” I can confidently say I’ve gained so much during my now seven years on the District Executive Committee. I am forever grateful to all of you for the opportunities this organization has given me over nearly 10 years as a Toastmaster. I will continue to give back and share the benefits I’ve received from this great organization—as best I can, for as long as I can.

You’ve made my time in District leadership meaningful, and I can’t wait to see what each of you will accomplish next.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jason Feucht*

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