



District Leader Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Fiona Bruce**

Candidate's Office: **Division C Director candidate** District Number: **60**

Toastmasters member since: **2017 (prior membership as well)**

Education:

M.Ed. Curriculum & Teaching - OISE, University of Toronto; M.Sc. Economics - London School of Economics, University of London; MBA - University of Ottawa; BA Psychology - Carleton University. I also have a diploma from the Sorbonne, speak French fluently, and enjoy learning something new every day.

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Area Director (D60) C32: August 2022-Present; Area Director (D86) T93: July-June 2021; District Chair for Youth Leadership (D86): July-June 2018; Area Director (D86) T93: July-June 2019; Also, I held club officer positions: VP Education, VP Membership, VP PR, Secretary, Treasurer, SAA. I have also been the Contest Chair, Test Speaker, and Chief Judge at Area contests. Previously, I managed a Speechcraft program for the Toronto YMCA's program for young women, to develop their leadership skills.

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Recognized for high performance as Area Director in a Distinguished Area (T93) year ending June 2021. Winner of Area 84 Evaluation contest.

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

I advise executives on business, strategy, financial decision-making and employee management. A major portion of my work includes improving employee communications and upgrading the usability of systems & technologies. My membership in Toastmasters has been a wonderful education and skill-development tool that fostered self-reliance, self-confidence, leadership and personal development. This development has had a reciprocal effect on my ability to contribute to the leadership team in Toastmasters, mentoring and supporting many others. My linkedin resume: www.linkedin.com/in/fabruce/

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

As an expert in designing training and communications campaigns, I understand the importance of aligning strategy and systems with an organization's overarching mission, vision, and goal. My technology, marketing, and financial knowledge has allowed me to make strategic contributions to government, software companies, educational institutions, and nonprofit sectors including program reviews, revenue & budget development, marketing campaigns, program & software development, training and recruitment. I also provided briefings to support new politicians in setting strategic directions at the Municipality of Metro Toronto.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have experience in finance, including accounting for a kitchen design company, setting up an accounting and sales system for an academic journal, preparing financial statements for an industrial hardware distributor, completing bank reconciliations for Citigroup, managing budgets for software development and implementation, and planning finances for Ryerson University's academic programs. I also completed various accounting courses in the CMA program at the Society of Management Accountants, completed training in Access, Excel and Oracle Financials, and am comfortable with many custom software programs.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

In the public sector, I served local government in policy and business analysis for more than a decade. I created policy and procedures to improve labor relations and productivity at Metro Ambulance, the Ontario ambulance service, the Ministry of Education, and the Hudson's Bay Company. I also developed compensation policy approaches at CUPE in negotiations for University of Toronto's adjunct professors. My Toastmasters experience has also permitted me to gain knowledge of the constitution, governing documents, and procedures.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

From my experience, I learned many things including professionalism, tact, diplomacy and sensitivity to others. I also learned how to use a positive perspective, a growth mindset, and to hold space for others. Over the last few years I have learned to practice a servant leadership approach where I inquire how I can help, encouraging, congratulating, reminding, and offering assistance, rather than attempting to overlay my own methods upon others.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

It is my dream to support improvements to the lives of the people around me. TM provides support to people transitioning from their current situation through personal responsibility by engaging in training and education. In my experience, Toastmasters provides a valuable bridge to sustainable employment, more stable personal relationships, happier, more fulfilling lives with less stress, and ultimately opens doors to new worlds of opportunity. I hope to make an impact on the lives of women and men of Toronto, and to create the kind of support necessary for the club members I care about.

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

The District mission can be subsumed under two envelopes: building new clubs and supporting excellence in all clubs. Within clubs, I use a three-pronged approach: membership growth, quality meetings, and member's educational growth. My own approach to leadership is a servant leadership one, where I undertake programs and approaches to assist those whose opinions are possibly different from my own, but whose ultimate goal is the same as my own.

Additional information about yourself:

I have a profound appreciation for humanitarians and those who work to make a difference in the world. I try to help improve the lives of those facing discrimination, poverty, or other challenges, through mentorship, and volunteering my time.