



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: SHUBHA AMBA

Candidate's Office: CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR

District Number: 60

Toastmasters member since: 2001

Education:

Bachelor of Arts (Psych., Eng Litt., Economics)
Masters of Arts (Psychology)
Masters of Business Administration

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Please see Excel document 'Shubha Amba-Officers Positions Held' attached with the accompanying email.

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Please see Excel document 'Shubha Amba-Educational Awards' attached with the accompanying email.

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

I worked for a major Canadian financial institution for over 16 years. During my employment I held various leadership positions that gave me the opportunity to demonstrate my ability to think strategically, conceptualize problems and offer thoughtful solutions.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

My business degree has trained me for strategic thinking. At my workplace, I was extensively involved in analyzing and measuring business growth initiatives for alignment with corporate strategy. As Club President of Plaza Speakers Toastmasters, I had a vision of 'Total Participation' to maximize membership engagement at the club meetings, complete with a plan and deliverables implemented. As Workshop Bureau Chair for District 60 I promoted it as a growth engine with a vision 'Your Bridge to the World', and strategic initiatives to support it.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have a masters in business administration with a major in Finance.
I have served in the finance department of a major Canadian financial institution for over 16 years.
I also served District 60 as Audit Committee Chair in the year 2021-2022.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

I have had several occasions at work to create processes related to planning and forecasting, branch performance reporting, business investment and compliance to name just a few. As Workshop Bureau Chair for District 60 in 2021-2022 and 2022-23, I put a process for presentation training and feedback to support member aspiration for professional speaking.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

1. Welcome all opportunities with an open mind and be willing to learn.
2. Understand problems correctly and ask the right questions before solving them.
3. Place trust in and value team members. Be resourceful to draw upon the expertise of others for answers and guidance.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

A strong desire to serve and make a difference in other people's lives. I care that they find their Toastmasters experience rewarding and serving their life mission in a way they find meaningful.

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

We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence:

1. To serve its members in a way that the Toastmasters experience enriches their lives: by ensuring the Toastmasters program is delivered meaningfully and creatively.
2. Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals: by providing the club executive teams the training to deal with their specific club issues.
3. Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members: by training the club exec team to understand a member's 'why' and how to create the environment to assist them in fulfilling their individual needs.
4. Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers: by making the training geared to understanding specific problems and providing customized solutions as needed, in addition to the standard training.

Additional information about yourself:

I have served D60 as follows:

1. Workshop Bureau Chair (2021-2022, 2022-2023): I redefined and augmented its role as 'Bridge to the World' and increased its prominence in the district as a growth engine for its members. I also introduced two new initiatives, namely,
 - 1) Workshop Presentation Training for those who aspire to step up their speaking ability as well to generate new presenters for the District annual conferences and
 - 2) Workshop Support Group to provide members thorough high-quality feedback on their workshops.
2. Audit Committee Chair (2021-2022). I have performed in this role with the utmost professionalism and thoroughness.
3. Earlier this year, I was briefly involved with the District trio in shaping some of its strategic direction, specifically, member experience as a core strategic theme with emphasis on relevance of the Toastmasters educational program in the workplace.

I also have community leadership experience with the Canadian Arthritis Society in the area of corporate fund raising through self-created and initiated county-wide fundraising events.