

## **ANNETTE KRAUSE, DTM – DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT**

Fellow District 15 Toastmasters,

First, a shoutout to Trevor Nelson, who did a marvelous job of leading our district through December of this last year. Looking at the agendas that he put together for the monthly district officer meetings, he has superb organizational skills that I really admire. I also admire his bravery in admitting that life had gotten too busy to be able to fully commit to being District Director. He has continued to help me out by posting accomplishments on Facebook, very much appreciated!

Getting the chance to work with Sarra Idehen was what had me stepping up to cover the remainder of the year for Trevor. Her skill with words and her organizational skills have impressed me time after time. I also had Maria Cervantes stepping in and covering for some of the missing positions such as webmaster and administrative manager. She has been my personal hero for working on so many things that don't fall under the duties of an Immediate Past District Director along with Courtney Carlovsky who helped coach our hard-working Finance Manager, Robert Johnson, and has stepped forward every time I've asked. Sameer Deshmukh has set a high bar for the Public Relations Manager. Implementing Meet-Up and utilizing a lot more social media than we have in the past has been a huge help. Making me smile with her enthusiasm, Jaysee Jimenez was a joy to work with and so put a lot of effort into her contacts for new clubs.

Listening to icebreakers has to be one of my favorite Toastmaster activities, especially when it's for the first time. It amazes me how brave some people are, sharing their deepest truths in front of relative strangers. That is what keeps me in Toastmasters. The level of trust that we invoke in others in a typical Toastmaster meeting... assuring them that it's ok to make mistakes or to share our most important stories. And then to take that confidence we nurture and see how people grow in their jobs and relationships is truly a marvelous thing to watch. I hope that if you are as passionate about the promise of Toastmasters to "mutually support" each other, that you will find a way to pass that on, whether as a district officer, or perhaps a shorter term as a committee member. For those of us working towards a Distinguished Toastmaster, those committee members are essential to finishing those levels and special projects!

Even though our numbers have been going lower, the people I've been privileged enough to work with such as Kandi Kutkas, who helped put on the TLI, and then the conference in addition to being division director, has given me new energy. From Tony Derricott who has patiently answered a lot of tech questions while cheering on his Division B team to Richard Carr, who loves to swap roles back and forth with Peggy Carr, both of them nurturing new talent along with the folks who have stepped up again to perform district officer roles such as Ken Jenkins, Terry Yackley, Shelly Belflower, Keith Tondro and Marisa Whittington, it's like old home week getting the chance to see all of you, and I hope others get the chance to be mentored by you as you do such an incredible job.

For those of you just starting your leadership journeys, I hope you look into taking higher roles at the area, division, district and beyond. It's an exciting world out there and you'll make some incredible friends along the way!

Annette Krause, DTM  
District 15 Director