



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Jan R. Cerizo

Candidate's Office: Program Quality Director District Number: 49

Toastmasters member since: September 2020

Education:

BA Asian Studies, Minor in Linguistics University of Hawaii at Manoa

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Club Growth Director - July 2024 - June 2025 Area 3 Director - July 2023 - June 2024
President - Moali'i Pres. Distinguished (2021-22) President - Japanese-English Bilingual 2023- 2024, President - INSPIREDx International
President's Distinguished (2023-2024)
VP Education - No Ka Oi (2022-2023) InspireX (2024-2025) Ke Ala Leo (2024-2025) VP Membership - Ke Ala Leo (2022- present) VP Public
Relations - Kea Ala Leo (2022-present) Prince Kuhio (2022- 2024) Sgt at Arms - Hawaii Speakers Bureau (2024 - 2025) Sergeant At Arms - Hawaii
Speakers Bureau (2022-present)

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Area Director of the Year (2023) DTM (July 2023) District 49 Toastmaster of the Year (2022-2023)
Club Toastmaster of the Year - Moali'i Toastmasters Club (2022-2023)
District 49 International Speech Contest - 2nd Place (2021)
Division A International Speech Contest - 1st Place (2022)

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

For a decade I wore several hats for the same employer: Administrative Manager, Marketing Strategist, Event Planner/Coordinator sometimes all at the same time. I realize that in Toastmasters, I may be called to hold several roles at the same time, as well: Division Director, Club Coach, Club Mentor and more. I feel that I have been prepared for such an eventuality: be an effective leader wherever and whenever I am called to assume whatever role. In the past year, having been entrusted with my present role as D49's Club Growth Director has further given me the appreciation of the depth and breathe of Toastmasters and how it can effectively transform lives. This experience has further cemented my commitment to Dr. Smedley's dream of empowering more people in our world today through Toastmasters.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

In various capacities held with the State, County and non profit agencies, I participated in strategic planning activities. However, the most meaningful experience I took part in was being a Girl Scout Troop Leader for my daughter's Beverly Hills troop. I success-fully strategized to organize, implement and coordinate the involvement of previously uninvolved mothers at El Rodeo and transform them into excited and deeply involved mothers: volunteering to chaperone during troop field trips to Disneyland, driving the girls to camps and helping their daughters to achieve their sales goals during Girl Scout Cookie season. Most recently, I worked very closely with the Club Growth Committee in expanding D49, reinforcing and strengthening membership engagement and improving the quality of the members club experience.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

In my current position with MEO, Inc, I help to oversee a budget of \$1.2M. Previously, in my job as an Office Manager for a private air transport, I oversaw a budget of \$1M.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Three years ago, I was thrust into my current position, untrained. I single-handedly developed the procedures to run the current program from its inception. The result was the program's successful implementation and the extension of its federal funding for another two years. Additionally, positions I held in government or in non profit agencies also gave me ample opportunities to develop procedures for program implementation.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

As a mother, I learned time management. As a choir leader, I learned how to hone my listening skills. As a teacher, I learned how to assess my students' preferred learning style. As a club president, I learned how to engender passion and excitement among the members so that they can achieve their personal goals while helping the club reach its DCP goals. As an Area Director, I learned how to become a servant leader: be graciously compassionate, be purposely driven and enthusiastically intentional. As a Club Growth Director, I learned how to become a better communicator, a more effective collaborator and a more resilient leader.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

Honestly, I am getting old and as such, I do not know how many more productive years I have left in me. Having learned and appreciated the transformative benefits of Toastmasters, I would like to be given the opportunity to reach as many people as I can so that they too can enjoy a boost in their self confidence and the appreciation of having their voice heard.

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

The District's mission is to build new clubs and support all clubs with excellence. To achieve this in my role as Program Quality Director, I have to exemplify the Toastmasters values of Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence as I support the Area Directors in my purview. My plan is to conduct a thorough training of these District leaders because they are the most important conduit between the members and the District. I will engender in these leaders that communication is a top priority in their role. Recognition of members achievements must also be highlighted. Happy members will grow and will be apt to share their excitement with others to attend the meetings. Inevitably, this will increase membership. Good things about Toastmasters will ultimately spread creating opportunities to build new clubs.

Additional information about yourself:

My 95 year old mother was an actively participating Toastmaster. I discovered that she even entered Speech Contests during her time. Moreover, my parents in-law were also proud Toastmasters. Therefore, it was only natural for my husband, my son and my daughter to also become part of Toastmasters, as they currently are. Ergo, they do not know it yet but my two year old granddaughter and ten month old grandson can also look forward to becoming a Toastmaster one day! Personally, I think of Toastmasters as my "happy pill", therefore it is not uncommon for me to attend a Toastmasters meeting daily!