



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Jan R. Cerizo**

Candidate's Office: **District Director** District Number: **49**

Toastmasters member since: **September 2020**

Education:

BA in Asian Studies, minor in Linguistics - University of Hawaii at Manoa

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Program Quality Director - July 2025- June 2026
Club Growth Director - July 2024 - June 2025
Area 3 Director - July 2023 - June 2024
President - Moali'i 21-22, Japanese-English Bilingual 23-24, InspiredX 24-25

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Select Distinguished Club Growth Director (2024-2025), Area Director of the Year (2023)
DTM (July 2023), District 49 Toastmaster of the Year (2022-2023), Club Toastmaster of the Year (2022-2023), D49 International Speech Contest - 2nd Place (2021), Division A 1st Place Winner (2022)

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

For a decade, I served in multiple capacities for the same employer, including Administrative Manager, Marketing Strategist, and Event Planner/Coordinator—often simultaneously. This experience prepared me well for the multifaceted responsibilities within Toastmasters, where leaders may be called upon to serve in several roles at once, such as a Trio Leader, Club Coach, or Club Mentor. I am confident in my ability to lead effectively wherever and whenever I am called to serve. The past two years serving in the Trio has further deepened my appreciation for the breadth and depth of Toastmasters and its powerful ability to transform lives. This experience has further strengthened my commitment to Dr. Smedley's vision of empowering individuals around the world through Toastmasters.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Over the past two years, as a District Trio member, I have actively contributed to increasing membership and establishing new clubs through recruitment and sponsorship. I am deeply passionate about advancing the District's mission of growing and strengthening. Balancing multiple roles as a D49 leader, choir member and caregiver require careful planning, strategic thinking and disciplined execution-skills I continue to hone.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

My current responsibility at the Maui County Housing Department is to oversee and monitor how the taxes of our Maui citizens are spent in the development and implementation of programs and services that address affordable housing and homelessness. Millions of dollars are involved and my reports are read by the Administration including the Mayor, Corporation Counsel, Finance Department and the County Council. In my previous jobs, I oversaw budgets ranging from \$1 million to \$10 million.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Five years ago, I assumed a position without prior training and independently developed the operational procedures required to launch and manage the program from its inception. As a result of these efforts, the program was successfully implemented, and its federal funding was extended for an additional two years. Additionally, my previous roles in government and nonprofit agencies provided substantial experience in developing and implementing effective program procedures.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

As a mother, I developed strong time-management skills. As a choir leader, I refined my ability to listen attentively and lead collaboratively. As a teacher, I learned to assess and adapt to students' diverse learning styles. As a club president, I cultivated passion and engagement among members, empowering them to achieve personal goals while advancing the club's Distinguished Club Program objectives. As an AD, I embraced the principles of servant leadership—leading with compassion, purpose and enthusiasm. As the CGD, I strengthened my communication skills, enhanced my ability to collaborate effectively, and built resilience as a leader. As PQD, I further developed my ability to multitask while maintaining a strong focus on achieving organizational goals.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

At this stage of my career, I am keenly aware of the value of time and the importance of meaningful contribution. Having experienced and deeply appreciated the transformative impact of Toastmasters, I am motivated to extend these benefits to as many individuals as possible—helping them build self-confidence and experience the power of having their voices heard. In a leadership role, I believe I can positively influence more lives and create a broader, more lasting impact than I could otherwise.

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. As District Director, I will exemplify the Toastmasters values of Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence while supporting the leaders. To achieve this mission, I plan to deliver comprehensive and effective training for District leaders, specifically the ADs, recognizing that they serve as the primary conduit between the club members and the District. For the District to be successful, our ADs must be fully equipped, mentored and supported.

Additional information about yourself:

My 96-year-old mother was an active and engaged Toastmaster, and I later learned that she even competed in speech contests during her time. In addition, my parents-in-law were also proud Toastmasters. As a result, it felt only natural for my husband, son, and daughter—who are all currently active members—to continue this family tradition. Looking ahead, I fully expect that my 3 year old granddaughter and 18 month old grandson will one day join Toastmasters, as well.