



# Clarion

Toastmasters District 59 Newsletter

SPECIAL

JULY

2008



**Get to know  
the District Executive Committee 2008-2009**

## Welcome from our District Governor 2008-2009 Greg Palmer

**Dear Toastmasters of Continental Europe,**

**FIRST, REFLECT BACK** for a moment. **Why did YOU join TOASTMASTERS?** What did you hope to accomplish? **MASTER** your **NERVOUSNESS** in front of a crowd? **INCREASE** your **EFFECTIVENESS** in selling a product or idea? **PERSUADE** people to act to accomplish something worthwhile? Harness **PASSION** to **WIN** the **HEARTS** and **SOULS** of your audience? **GROW** as a **LEADER**, practicing your **ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS**? Make new **FRIENDS**? **IMPROVE** your **LANGUAGE** abilities? **CHALLENGE** yourself to **WIN** in **SPEECH CONTESTS** from Club to International level? Or simply to **HAVE FUN** in a **POSITIVE, SELF-MOTIVATED, VERY DIVERSE** group of people with **COMMON GOALS**?

Whatever your goals, your **District 59 leader TEAM** (FAMILY, in my eyes) during this 2008-9 Toastmasters term- from District Executive Committee to Club Officers, is **FULLY COMMITTED to UNDERSTAND** and **KNOW** your communications and **Leadership GOALS** (we will ask you!), and harness EVERY RESOURCE we can to **HELP YOU ACCOMPLISH THEM!**



We will do this by **TRAINING** your club, Area, Division and District leaders to **SERVE YOU**. Area and Division leaders will visit your clubs, sharing best practices from other clubs, offering recommendations on how to **IMPROVE the QUALITY of your CLUB MEETINGS**. They will also **LEAD** the effort to partner with motivated Club prospective members to **create and build NEW CLUBS** where there are none.

During my ten years as a TM, we have grown from 30 clubs to over 140. This term, we expect to charter 25-30 more new clubs. We **WELCOME** six **NEW** highly motivated Clubs in **POLAND** into our **D59 FAMILY of European Clubs**.



**NOW LOOK FORWARD.** **KNOW** your **GOALS**. **COMMUNICATE** them to your club **LEADERS**. **LEVERAGE** all of the tools and **OPPORTUNITIES** that Toastmasters has to offer. Go visit neighboring clubs regularly. Experiment, step (**RUN!**) beyond your comfort zone, expect to make mistakes, discover your weaknesses, confirm your strengths, then listen carefully to the **CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK** we offer you, and **LEARN, GROW, SHINE** as a **communicator and leader!**

### **Toastmastering in Europe**

**Have COURAGE TO CONQUER - Discover THE POWER OF FAMILY!**

TOGETHER, we can accomplish ANYTHING!

**Greg Palmer, DTM**  
District Governor 2008-9



## District Officer

### DISTRICT GOVERNOR

#### Greg Palmer



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Greg Palmer is a native of Santa Monica, California. He graduated with an Engineering degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and later earned his Masters Degree in International Relations, with focus on Western Europe, from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He has lived and worked in Europe for over 25 years in 10 different cities in Germany and France, and has travelled very extensively throughout Europe and the Southwest Pacific.

Greg ventured to his first Toastmasters Meeting in Stuttgart in 1997, when we had just over 30 clubs in Continental Europe. After attending several meetings, his passion for, and recognition of the unlimited value and potential of Toastmasters in Europe quickly grew. He has subsequently served with enthusiasm in Club, Area, Division and District leadership positions within the Continental Council of European Toastmasters and in District 59. He earned his Distinguished Toastmaster Award in 2006. He is an active member of the Heidelberg and Mannheim English speaking clubs and the German speaking Bergstrasse Club in Bensheim, and is contributing to efforts to create new clubs in Strasbourg and Mannheim.

He enjoys seeking tough, realistic challenges that promote optimal self growth, individually, and organizationally. Besides Toastmastering, his passions include traveling, meeting and learning from people from diverse cultures, sharing the amazing beauty of the undersea world through underwater photography, cooking international gourmet foods and sipping fine wines with good friends.

**THE POWER OF FAMILY!**

### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

#### Ellen Hermens



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Ellen Hermens is an enthusiastic Toastmaster. She joined in 2003 and since then has achieved the title Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG) and Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB). She has also served as club officer and has held several district officer roles. In 2007 she received the award "DIVISION GOVERNOR of the Year 2006-07". Ellen is currently member of three clubs.

Ellen Hermens is a passionate communication trainer and coach and has her own business Speech-Coach.de. She focuses on rhetorics, giving feedback, presentation training and coaching in which she brings in her extensive Toastmasters experience of, as a NLP trainer and her business life.

Ellen has many hobbies including parlor games, German flute, Wii, Motorbiking, Diving, Science Fiction, and of course Toastmasters.

As Lieutenant GOVERNOR Education and Training (LGET) she strives to have every club and every member reap the benefits of the Toastmasters educational program - to focus on quality meetings and help them develop further. This development is represented by a successful Distinguished Club Program - which is an indicator of each club's health. She will advise DIVISION GOVERNORS, AREA GOVERNORS and club officers on the educational opportunities offered by Toastmasters International.

***Toastmasters offers so many benefits - do you know all of them?***

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## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MARKETING

### Mike Monroy



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DTM Mike Monroy has been a member of TMI since 1984.

Mike is retired from the US Navy (enlisted). Mike and his wife DTM Jacqueline Chatelan (Swiss National) reside in Cadiz Spain since 1998.

Mike was selected at District 59P as Toastmaster of the year for 2000-2001. He is Founder of AREA Iberia (Spain & Portugal) 2003 - today DIVISION Iberia. Mike has served as DIVISION A GOVERNOR 2004-2005.

Mike is currently teaching English as a foreign language for Vaughan Systems in Spain since 2004. At this time Mike is the founder/President of English Speaking Group Madrid 2008.

Serving this term as District 59 Lieutenant GOVERNOR for Marketing, Mike's primary responsibility is to help extend the benefits of being a Toastmaster to as many people as possible in Continental Europe and take care of the members.

### E-Mails with @@

As this document is being published in the internet I doubled all @ in the e-mail addresses. That way these mail addresses are not being captured by Spambots.

When you want to contact anybody please copy the address and remove one of the @.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

### Ingo Cremer



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Currently I am working in adult education and as systemic counsellor in Hanover.

There I joined my home club "Hannover Speakers" (Hannover is written with two n's originally and we are a German-English speaking club) in 2004. I served on the board as VP Education and President and last year as Division Governor of Division C - the northern part of Germany.

## SECRETARY

### Tara Majumdar



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Hi, I am Tara Majumdar, the District Secretary this term. In my opinion, the possibilities at Toastmasters are endless - be it in speaking, leadership or networking.

I joined Toastmasters in 2003 and since then have enjoyed every moment. I have had the pleasure of serving in various club positions including President, Area Governor and last year as Division D Governor.

Besides Toastmastering, books, music, cooking with friends and my three year old son are close to my heart.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

## TREASURER

### Ketty Englert



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Ketty Englert joined Toastmasters 10 years ago. At that time the Hedgehog Toastmasters Club in Buxtehude was the only Club in Northern Germany.

She has helped the club develop as, VP-Education, President, VP-Membership, VP-PR, Treasurer, and Secretary. In 1999 the CCET (Europe was still not a District) appointed her Area Governor, a position which she held for two years in a row. During that time she and other "Hedgehogs" played an active role in supporting and building new clubs. Ketty is a charter member of the First Hanseatic Toastmasters in Hamburg and was a Mentor for the Hanseredner and the Stade Toastmasters.

Ketty was born and grew up in Denmark. After school she went to England, where she stayed for a year. Shortly after her return from there she went to Germany, where she has been living since then.

Today Ketty is happy to be able to use all three languages in her every day work. She works in the German unit of Danske Bank in Hamburg with German and Danish colleagues, where the language for the international units is English. Apart from that she teaches Danish in the evening school in Buxtehude and gives Danish classes for her colleagues in the Bank.

All Ketty's activities are supported by her husband Roland, who is a frequent guest at the District Conferences.

## IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

### Zuzana Grofova



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As a Charter member of Pardubice Enthusiasts (9854-59), she has been a Toastmaster for 10 years. She has been club VP Education, Membership, PR and President. she was AREA GOVERNOR 2002/2003; her Area achieved President's Distinguished award. In Autumn 2002, she was Chairman of the District conference. She was awarded District Toastmaster of the Year 2001/2002. In the Queen's Town club, she achieved her second CTM while helping as the club Mentor and continued on to achieve her second DTM. She led DIVISION D to a President's Distinguished award as DIVISION GOVERNOR in 2003/2004. She sponsored two clubs in Nowy Sacz in Poland (2004) and one club in Prague (2005).

For the past 3 years she has served as LGM, LGET and last year as DISTRICT GOVERNOR.

Zuzana lives and works in Pardubice, Czech Republic. As a medical doctor, she works as a physician-consultant for clinical nutrition in hospitals. She is also a university lecturer, consultant for laboratories and insurance companies, frequent radio speaker in addition to other activities. She also runs her private small out-patient-department for obese people.

Her partner Toastmaster, Ivan, provides all kinds of support. Her daughter Pavlina (age 20) studies at the Faculty of Practical Arts and Design.

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## DIVISION A GOVERNOR

### Francoise Le Reste



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I joined Toastmasters in 1991 in the first French speaking club of France in Orléans. The first time I visited it I was enthralled. What impressed me most was the variety of the meetings and the constructive evaluations.

Then when the club split I immediately joined „ELOQUENCE 45“ and I have been a member since then. I have held all the various club-officer 's roles except Treasurer because I hate figures!

4 years ago I became Area Governor in Division A which was granted the „President Distinguished“ award. After that I thought that I would know the job better, I did another year which I appreciated, much enlarging my network of motivated people.

Then in 2007-2008 I became Division Governor and I was successful thanks to very valuable Area Governors; I am ready to start another enriching year as a Division Governor for the coming year.

And I hope at the end of the year to be a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) working at attracting more new members and creating new clubs.

***A big thank you to TOASTMASTERS for giving me all those wonderful possibilities.***

## AREA A1 GOVERNOR

### Edouard Truong



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Overseas Chinese born in Vietnam in 1972, I was raised in an international and entrepreneur environment. I got most of my education in France and from the ground through my travel around the world since I was 15. I learned a lot more with people I met on my way.

From the stepping stones of my life, I have learned that "Where there is a will, there is a way...where there are roots, there are directions to life". Today, I work as a teacher and consultant in management.

Member of Toastmasters since October 2004 in Paris, I served as Vice President of Education from 2005 to 2006, and as President from 2006 to 2007 in club 6631. Those experiences were very enriching since they shaped my organization skills and my ability to interact with officers and members the better to serve them and TMI.

Acting as a governor for this coming year will give me the opportunity to exchange and experiment new management and leadership challenges with 3 French clubs and 2 Bilingual clubs.

***My goal: Let's build our spirit together and exchange area experiences to serve our members.***

## AREA A2 GOVERNOR

### Jean Knibbe



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My Toastmasters' career started in 1994. I first joined the "Forum des Rives de Seine" club, then the "Agora 75" club as a charter member, then "Expressions" club as a charter member.

These 3 clubs are French language speaking clubs. In these clubs I have held various club officers roles. (Treasurer, Secretary, President, VP Education) and this year I am VP PR of the "Expressions" Club.

I think Toastmasters is a network of motivated people. My objective is to promote and facilitate sharing between the clubs and help 2 clubs of my Area in their administrative tasks with Toastmasters headquarters.

It's important to know how to make use of the Web site, to register new members and awards, submit the membership report on time, and much more.

## AREA A3 GOVERNOR

### Didier Dehem



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In June 2003, I joined the Club des Orateurs in Brussels. A few years later, I was very glad to become the President of this club.

When I started, I mainly saw the "communication" aspect of the Toastmasters program. With experience, I discovered that the "leadership" aspect had become important to me and that it had even transformed me. When I have to give my opinion about a work or about a realization, I see gold in them first before speaking of possibilities for improvements.

As Area Governor, I have decided to put the stress on delegation during this year: we are not Supermen and we can not do everything. In addition I believe that delegation is a way of promoting team building. During this year, I want to work closely with the committees of the A3 Area and especially with the Presidents.

Toastmasters is a place where we can achieve personal development and where we can meet other people through speaking.

***Toastmasters is also a place to practise and to cultivate communication and leadership.***

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## DIVISION B GOVERNOR

### Jaap Russchenberg



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As a Charter Member of Toastmasters of The Hague (TMOTH), I have been involved in "The Toastmasters Experience" since 2003. I was Toastmasters of the Hague President in 2005-2006, and was Area Governor for the English-speaking clubs in The Netherlands in 2006-2007.

I'm 55 years old and have one slogan in life: **"I'm never too old to learn"**.

In my second year as Division B Governor, I have the challenge to prepare Division B for splitting into two separate divisions in July 2009. With the help of an excellent group of Area Governors, I know we will achieve this goal.

## AREA B1 GOVERNOR

### Petra Zöllner



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Toastmasters is a great organisation and educational programme, and one that I intend to continue in actively for some time. I first joined the Capitol Club in Belgium in 2003 when I was feeling overly self-conscious about a silent stammer. Five years on, the stammer's hardly noticeable, and I've competed in (and

organised) speech and evaluation contests, led the Capitol Club as President, and helped found a couple of bilingual clubs.

This year the Area B1 theme is **'TAKE THE LEAD'**. Belgium is growing! In the past three years we have doubled the number of toastmasters and clubs and new club ideas keep coming, particularly for bilingual clubs. By the end of this year we may be almost doubled again. With a bi-lingual Clubs vision taking off, Brussels alone should have thirty clubs in the next ten years, and Belgium as a whole at least forty.

We are delighted to be hosting the District 59 Conference in Brussels in May 2009, and look forward to welcoming you all!

## AREA B2 GOVERNOR

### Bill Monsour



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Bill Monsour caught the Toastmasters bug in 2002 in Amsterdam. His fever maybe explains his being D59 Speech Champion in 2005, D59 Toastmaster of the year in 2007, and editor of the D59 best club newsletter in 2008. Founder of the first Dutch-language club, and co-instigator of the Professional Trainer Toastmasters Group of D59, currently he is one of the easy-Speak gurus.

Bill loves speech coaching, which he has been doing for over 15 years. Combining his background in acting and singing, with his schooling in organizational behavior, Bill has a unique message and entertaining style as a trainer. Bill is the lead trainer of TrainingArtsInternational.com.

In his words:

**"I have always loved coaching others to reach their full potential. Now I'm a better coach because of Toastmasters."**

## AREA B<sub>3</sub> GOVERNOR

### Bernadette Alexander



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After seven years of Toastmastering, I've taken on the role of Governor for the Area B3: English speaking clubs in and around Luxembourg.

What this tiny little country lacks in surface area – a mere 2,586 sq km (999 sq miles) – it makes up for in depth. Located at the centre of Europe, Luxembourg epitomises the European Union with a foreign population of nearly 50%.

Walking around the Grand Duchy, you're likely to hear half a dozen languages being spoken. This is also true of the Toastmaster Clubs in Luxembourg whose membership is typically made up of lots of different nationalities.

In every Toastmaster club, each member brings something different; in Luxembourg we are lucky to have that aspect further enhanced by our cosmopolitan population.

I work full time and am constantly juggling to fit in all the things I would like to do. These include: spending time with my family, practising sport and yoga, taking advantage of Luxembourg's packed cultural calendar and of course writing speeches.

## AREA B<sub>4</sub> GOVERNOR

### Joanne Telser



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Born in Chicago and being a bit of an adventurer, I have lived and worked in several different countries: Pakistan (1980-1981), Egypt (1983-1987) and in Qatar (1991-2000). In 2001 I settled in Paris where I plan to stay – at least for a few more years!

Communication has always been important in my choice of jobs : I have worked in many areas from journalism to teaching to public relations.

Today I am the Director of Studies for ARAXI Formations Langues, a language training school where I am working on creating programs to help people learn how to communicate more easily.

I have been a Toastmaster since I first joined as a Charter Member of DOHA TOASTMASTERS in 1997 in Qatar; Upon arriving in Paris I became a member of Toastmasters of Paris and have served as President, VP Membership, and VP Public Relations I have also worked closely with several Area Governors doing public relations and organizing training sessions before taking on the challenging job of Area Governor myself in the fall of 2007.

What I love most about Toastmasters is meeting fellow Toastmasters from all over the world: people who are also dedicated to improving our lives by exchanging ideas and by working together!

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## AREA B5 GOVERNOR

### Peter Mestrum



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## AREA B6 GOVERNOR

### John Rouse



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**Welcome!** If you are a fellow Toastmaster or you are thinking of getting better in public speaking and/or bettering your leadership skills, ask your self this: *Have you charted your way to developing your personal skills to the next level?* I have. As a professional I need to communicate with technical people and business-oriented individuals and groups. That was a challenge for me, as this didn't come naturally to me. Having a logical plan and knowing what your objectives are were not always the only key ingredients needed to accomplish a successful business deal.

Toastmasters was introduced to me by an old colleague of mine, Luis. At a multinational company with whom I kept in contact. The various tracks in Toastmasters I have embarked on really helped my communication skills. Now I would like even more to help others to achieve their goals with Toastmasters. Having left behind the sunny Caribbean beaches and the wonderful sound of steelband music too long ago, I

am here in Europe -- to be more specific in the Netherlands -- following my destiny.

Area B6, is as of July 1st 2008 the newest Area member of Division B in District 59. Toastmasters have more than 80 years of experience in developing and fine-tuning the art of helping you help yourself be a better speaker and a better leader. *Let us accomplish all the goals we set out to achieve this 2008 - 2009 Toastmasters year and beyond.*

While focusing on our goals, let us not lose sight of two things. One is having fun while learning and second but not less important is giving something back to Toastmasters that makes it possible for us to grow. How? By helping fellow Toastmasters reach their goals as well.

Attend the next meeting in your neighborhood. Clubs are located all over. Check them out.

***Together we can make a difference.***

## DIVISION C GOVERNOR

### Benjamin Bruehl



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As the President of the First Berlin Toastmasters Club in 2005-2006 I was privileged to lead my club to become President's Distinguished Club for the first time in its history. Keeping the momentum going, First Berlin Toastmasters have now repeated their success three times in a row. In 2007 I became a charter member of the Leipzig Toastmasters. The newly added club expanded the Area, as well as my own experience, as I served as Area Governor in 2007-2008, which gave me the possibility to work with many more interesting Toastmasters. The Area was very successful and was finally awarded President's Distinguished status.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to take the next step. My goal is to help all

clubs in Northern and Eastern Germany to grow and provide quality service to their members. I'm especially looking forward to having the clubs from Poland entering our Division as a new Area and I'm optimistic that Toastmasters International's Board will vote in favour of it this upcoming August.

As an electrical engineer and doctoral candidate working for the Berlin University in the area of 'Microsystem Technology Research and Teaching' the Toastmasters' benefits reveal themselves daily.

Practicing Tendoryu-Aikido in my spare time as well as coaching young people twice a week in this wonderful martial art also helps to see Toastmasters from yet another perspective.

I'm happy to be part of the 'Toastmasters Family' since 2004. It's an amazing experience to meet so many interesting and inspiring people. Reap the benefits of Toastmasters: Set goals for yourself, challenge yourself, and celebrate your accomplishments!

## AREA C1 GOVERNOR

### Dieter Klotzsche



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Member of the Hedgehog Toastmasters since 1999. Served on the Hedgehog executive committee as Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer and in 2007/2009 President.

For the clubs in area C1 the main challenge is to become more known to the public and to show the people in the region what Toastmasters can do for them, resulting in more new members.

I want to get the clubs closer together; the C1 and C3 area should continue working together, because German and English clubs offer an array attracting those

who want to work on their German language and learn rhetoric skills and those who mainly want to train their English language skills.

***We represent both sides of a coin***

## AREA C2 GOVERNOR

### Charles Whitmer



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I am originally from Bellingham, Washington, a nice town nestled directly in between Vancouver and Seattle, and have lived in Washington D.C., Southeast Alaska, England and most recently, Berlin. I discovered Toastmasters two years ago when I moved to Germany, founded an English-speaking club in Leipzig and have been a Toastmasters "believer" ever since. I have always felt quite strongly that clear communication can resolve any conflict and feel that there is no better program for improving communications skills than Toastmasters. I'm happy to have the opportunity to help further expand the Toastmasters presence in eastern Germany.

I followed my wife to Germany for what we expected to be an 8 month stay while she did research for her history dissertation. That was two years ago, and we plan to be in Germany for at least another two years. Besides Toastmasters, I teach English and US media courses at Martin-Luther-Universität, work as a freelance editor for academic and other texts and try to do as much travelling as possible as part of my ongoing attempt always to have visited as many countries as I am years old. I'm safe for another two years.

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## AREA C3 GOVERNOR

### Christian Guelich



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Member of Toastmasters since 2003, Competent Communicator (CC) and Competent Leader (CL).

Hamburg Clubs: HanseRedner (German), First Hanseatic Toastmasters (English).

Member of executive committee of the HanseRedner: Sergeant at Arms (2004/05), VP Education (2005/06), President (2006/07), Treasurer (2007/08).

Profession: Media Documentalist for Financial Information and Services.

Hobbies: Foreign Languages (English, French), History, Politics and Civilisations (Europe and Far East), digital photography and personal website.

Plans: coordination of public relations activities at area level, membership building for new and established clubs of our area, educational training for related personal interests and club growth.

## AREA C4 GOVERNOR

### Yet to be appointed



???

## DIVISION D GOVERNOR

### Yet to be appointed



???

## AREA D1 GOVERNOR

### Niko Viramo



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Niko Viramo is a dedicated Toastmaster. He has achieved the title of Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) and Competent Leader (CL) and has been very active since his 4-year membership on Vienna club executive committees. He is one of the founding members of the Vienna Speakers Club (chartering in Fall 2008) and the founder of Speakers Bureau Austria (a portal for advanced Toastmasters in the D1 Area). At the moment he serves as the Area Governor for D1 (Austria and Hungary) and he is the immediate past President of the Vienna Toastmasters Club.

Niko Viramo works in the management of a hotel investment fund in Austria. On his "free-time" he is a passionate speaker, trainer and mentor in his own business, Fizz Academy. He focuses on helping young leaders and entrepreneurs find their talents and become more successful.

+ Born 1975 + Education: MBA (2008) + Further Education: 6 Sigma Blackbelt + Networks: XING, JCI (Certified National Train-

ner), Young Leaders Forum, GSA, + Family status: Married & three kids + Interests: success, surfing, travelling, family, Toastmasters. + Companies: Fizz Academy, www.fizzacademy.com

His motto: "**Everything is possible.**" and "**Success is a mindset.**"

## AREA D2 GOVERNOR

### Marie Bíbrová



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In June 1999 I visited a demo meeting of Pardubice Enthusiasts Club by chance. I was surprised, because I had not heard about Toastmasters International before. Enthusiasm of the club members made me join the club.

I intended to practice my English among friendly people, but when I started working on my manuals and served in the roles of various club officers, I realized Toastmasters International was going to give me more than I had expected.

Since I joined Toastmasters International I have improved not only my speaking skills but I have also become self-confident and determined. Its activities have increased my reputation both at work and in my family.

Moreover, I find it enjoyable to make up various stories. It makes me happy to share them with my friends at club meetings. Of course, the most dedicated listeners of my fairy tales are my three cute grandchildren. I love them very much and try hard to devote most of my spare time to them.

## AREA D3 GOVERNOR

### Barbara Hoerger



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After many months, 18 to be exact, of persuasive work from another Toastmaster I finally joined the Nuremberg Toastmasters. I've been hooked ever since. As an active member in three area clubs my job as area governor will be an interactive one, I'm sure.

One of the most rewarding activities at TM has been conducting the Youth Leadership Program at one of the schools here in town. I have just completed my Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) and am also a Competent Leader (CL). The other awards are sure to follow!

As to my person: Born in the USA a long, long time ago. Married to a German and living in Germany for 24 years now. My studies and diploma from the States were not accepted here so I am working as a home care nurse for the elderly and as a group leader for Weight Watchers. I enjoy both very much and need my acquired communication skills all the time, especially "thinking on my feet."

Hobbies: dancing - be it standard, Latin or country; reading; games - of all kinds; watching soccer and ice hockey

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## DIVISION E GOVERNOR

### Allison Turner



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Allison Turner has now been a Toastmaster in two millenia, on two continents, and for almost 30% of her life. She has earned the Advanced Toastmaster Silver and Competent Leader (old version) awards. She has held most of the club officer positions at one time or other in her original club in Montreal Canada and/or her current club, Zurich Toastmasters.

She will (soon!) be a charter member of the first French-speaking club in Zurich. As Area Governor she led Area E3 to Select Distinguished Area status in 2005-2006. She is happy now to be back in a District Officer role, even though her most cherished Toastmasters memory was representing Switzerland's Area in the District Humorous Speech Contest in Pardubice in 2002.

Allison is an English teacher by training, and is also enjoying working part-time for an English-language magazine, Inside Switzerland. Her husband, Florian Hehlen, is also an active and successful Toastmaster, and her two daughters, Fiona and Camille, were occasionally used as props when they were small. Allison enjoys reading and knitting, and doesn't hate skiing. She plays a little too much Scrabble on Facebook.

## AREA E1 GOVERNOR

### Soren Gade



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Soren has been a member of Toastmasters since 2002 in the USA, the UK and now in Switzerland. He earned Advanced Communicator bronze (ACB) and CL and plans to earn his ACS this year. He led his club, Zurich Toastmasters, to President's Distinguished Club two years in a row as President and VP Education.

Born and educated in Denmark, having worked in finance and IT in six countries, he is still busy learning languages. He lets his two boys teach him. There is often more to be learned from the "Word of the Day".

In his spare time, Soren enjoys spending time with his wife and kids travelling in Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Germany.

## AREA E2 GOVERNOR

### Stefan Bogdanov



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Hi, I have been member of the Toastmasters Club of Berne for 6 years. I stepped into Toastmasters a bit late in my career and have been able to profit from this great experience only in the last years of my work as a bee scientist.

But better late than never: now as a retiree since two years I am still active in this exci-

ting field, travelling for giving talks in conferences and I am improving.

I also enjoy guitar playing, singing, song-writing and folk dance. Another passion is foreign languages: besides English and Bulgarian, my mother tongue, I know Russian, German, Swiss German, French and Italian, and last year I started learning Spanish.

**Every language gives me a different life!**

I am excited to step into my new role as the new E2 governor and to meet new people in new clubs.

## AREA E3 GOVERNOR

### Girish Dave



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Girish is a dedicated Toastmaster from Basel Switzerland. As the founding President of both English-speaking Toastmasters clubs and the German Rhetoric Toastmasters club, (all in the Basel area), he has been instrumental in bringing Toastmasters to the region. Girish comes from a very international, multicultural and multilingual background.

Born in India and brought up in Africa and Europe, he has 3 major world cultures and languages as his background. He has widely travelled throughout the world, including treks across hot and cold deserts, climbs up high peaks and descents into the ocean's depths.

With five university degrees, he has major interests in Engineering, Management, Psychology, and Psychiatric research. He also leads an Early Morning Yoga and Karate group and is a LaughYoga trainer.

## AREA E4 GOVERNOR

### Christian Sollberger



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Christian Sollberger, Jr. has been a member of the German-speaking Turicum Toastmasters Club in Zurich since 2003. In 2005, he was elected Vice President Membership. Afterwards, he served as club President in 2006-2007. After serving last year as Immediate Past President, he has now followed his father as Area Governor for the German-speaking Area E4 in Switzerland.

He also is the webmaster of [www.turicum-toastmasters.ch](http://www.turicum-toastmasters.ch). He relaunched this site two years ago.

If you ask him about Toastmasters, he tells you that Toastmasters has made him a better listener ... and of course, a better speaker, too.

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## DIVISION F GOVERNOR

### Ivan Aksenov



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I first got to know about Toastmasters by attending a Speech Craft course in Sydney in 2001. Though I never joined a Toastmasters club in Australia, I soon found a friendly, fun club in Frankfurt - Esprit De Corps Toastmasters Club - after migrating to Germany in 2003.

After being asked to assist with the then newly-formed Darmstadt Toastmasters, I became a dual member and later President of the Darmstadt Toastmasters Club. Still based in Frankfurt, I enjoyed the role as Area F2 Governor in 2007-2008 and am now enjoying the job of being the Division F Governor, 2008-2009.

Outside of Toastmasters, I started working as a trainer and facilitator in 2003 and have focused on Presentation and Rhetoric skills as well as Team Building, Emotional Intelligence and Intercultural Awareness.

I graduated from Adelaide University 1986 in the field of Medical Laboratory Practice, later moving into the area of Technical Sales in IT Networking and Data Storage.

In sharp contrast to my technical background is my love for the stage. I have performed in numerous amateur theatre productions in Adelaide, (Doppio Theatre), Saudi Arabia (Desert Rose Productions), Sydney, (Lane Cove Amateur Theatre Group), and, more recently, Darmstadt, (ESOC drama group).

## AREA F1 GOVERNOR

### Goetz Mueller



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He has been a Toastmaster since 2006 at the Verdi Rhetorik Klub Stuttgart, and is Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) and Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB).

He was Vice President Membership in 2007 and President in 2007/2008.

Goetz's profession is Engineer and Project Manager, working for international telecommunication companies.

Private life: Family (married, two daughters, 10 & 12), Toastmasters (what else ;-), personal development and NLP, helping others to grow as well.

Goals as Area Governor:

- + especially supporting the German clubs and their members in my area and beyond;
- + fostering relationships between the English and German clubs for the various trainings and conferences;
- + spreading the advantages of a Toastmasters membership, which are: communication, leadership and general personal development;
- + continuing the work of my predecessor, Gisela Plieseis, in helping the clubs to again reach "distinguished" status for the benefits of their members;
- + and, encouraging mentoring, especially for new members.

## AREA F2 GOVERNOR

### Christian Treder



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Christian is a member of the Darmstadt Toastmasters club. He grew up in Hamm, an industrial city in the Ruhr area. After failing to become a rockstar, he attended the University of Giessen. There he earned his diploma degree in psychology, with a minor in computer sciences. Right now Christian lives in Gross-Zimmern in the Rhine Main Area, Germany, together with his fiancé and his 8-year old daughter.

Christian has worked as an HR consultant and project manager for more than 6 years now, and during this time, he has conducted numerous employee survey projects for national and international companies and corporations.

In his free time he enjoys time with his family. Christian is also quite enthusiastic about mountain biking and probably knows about every single hill within a radius of 40km from his hometown.

As Area Governor, Christian is looking forward to supporting all the clubs in reaching their goals for the benefit of the individual members. **He wants to encourage new and existing members to fulfill their communication and leadership potential and to feel the Toastmasters spirit!**

## AREA F3 GOVERNOR

### Al Green



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## AREA F4 GOVERNOR

### Guido Moeller



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Who is this guy?

I am twenty years old and currently reading chemistry in Münster. I joined Toastmasters in 2005 and have so far achieved the Competent Toastmaster Award. In my free time I practice Judo, am learning ballroom dancing and, of course, I attend Toastmaster events as often as I can.

What does he want to change?

During the next Toastmaster year, I will focus on educational achievement in the clubs of my area. I also hope to be able to establish a wider mentoring program. Additionally, I will work towards the charter of the Muenster Toastmasters club. I will try to spread the ideas of Toastmasters, especially in the university, so that more young people can reap the benefits.

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## DIVISION G GOVERNOR

### Alexandra Olsson



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Originally, I started at Toastmasters in order to keep up my English. I didn't think I had any problems speaking in front of people, but very soon realized that speaking is not just speaking! After five years as a Toastmaster, I still have a long way to go but am working on it. Not only am I keeping up my English but I'm also improving my speaking and leadership skills at the same time and constantly making new friends all over Europe! What more can I ask for?

I was born in 1952 in Salzburg, Austria but my whole family immigrated to the USA when I was two! We moved back to Austria after 17 years. Luckily, we always spoke German at home so that at least there was no problem with the language. Actually, we spoke Russian for the first 13 years of my life! My grandparents, on my father's side, were Russian and lived with us in Pittsburgh, Pa. I do not speak very much Russian anymore, though.

I married a Swede in 1980, moved to Sweden 1982 and have been living here since. Our daughter was born in 1983 and she now also speaks three languages!

My goal, as the Division G (Scandinavia) governor, is to bring the three Areas closer together and have them interact more than we do now. I have three great Area Governors who I will be working with closely!

My motto: "***When Toastmasters speak, people listen!***"

## AREA G2 GOVERNOR

### Annica Nordin



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Annica Nordin is one of the charter members of the Lundby Toastmasters Club in Goteborg. She has been on the club's board since the start in March 2005 and has completed her Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) and the Old Competent Leader (OCL).

As an executive assistant in Volvo Truck Corporation, Annica spends a lot of her time preparing presentations, speeches and other information material. She is also passionate about quality and as a quality manager, she promotes customer focus and continuous improvement.

Annica finds her energy in the company of family and friends, and in nature. She is a passionate bird watcher and spends at least one week every year ringing birds. Almost all weekends are spent at the primitive cottage on the countryside between two big lakes, Vanern and Vattern. Here she tries her hand at growing roses and vegetables, creating a haven for her family and herself, promoting biodiversity by using only natural methods and no chemicals.

Annica's aspirations as Area G2 Governor is to support the clubs in her area and represent them and their views within District 59. She is especially thrilled about making the club visits and discussing Toastmasters' issues with club officers. She believes there is a wealth of knowledge in the clubs that can be spread. She would also like to see more networking between Toastmasters of different clubs.

## AREA G1 GOVERNOR

### Nic Cottrell



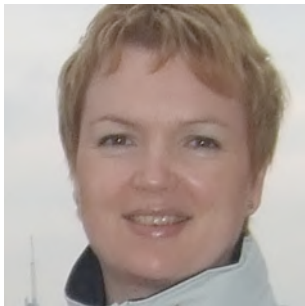
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Nic has been a Toastmaster for almost 3 years with the Stockholm International club. He comes originally from Australia, but studied and worked in Canada, France, England and Iceland before settling in Sweden. He is an entrepreneur and works mostly with non-government and inter-governmental organisations.

This term, Nic will be carrying out his second year as Area Governor. In his first year as Area Governor he successfully helped to build two new clubs.

## AREA G3 GOVERNOR

### Lena Fredriksson



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When I got in touch with Toastmasters in 2003, I immediately liked the concept of networking, personal development and having an excellent chance to practice and improve my English! I have been a member of Gothenburg Toastmasters Club since 2004 and have served in different roles as an officer on our club's board over the last 4 years. Last year I was the President. Our club started a mentor program for new

members last fall and I have learned that many members appreciated that.

I was one of the 8 contestants in the Speech Contest in Prague this year and although I did not win, it was a great experience. I really would like to compete again!

My personal goal this TM-year is to reach my Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB). My goal as an Area Governor is to get to know the clubs well and inspire and support them so that they can improve.

I grew up in the Swedish countryside, but have lived in Gothenburg for many years. When I am not professionally selling technical plastics I enjoy travelling, learning more about personal development, taking power-walks in the forest, cooking and socializing with friends.

## DIVISION H GOVERNOR

### Markus Kuenkel



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No kidding, my biggest challenge in my Toastmasters "career" has been to tell my first joke in public! That was the joke in itself, you might think. No. It made me realize, once again in my life, that going beyond your personal borders, trying out things beyond the daily routine, will always open new horizons.

Accordingly, I have filled club officer positions ever since joining Mallorca Toastmasters in 2003, which included two years as President and one as VP Education of that club. With great team members around me, I became Area Governor for area H1 in 2006 and stayed till 2008,

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a great experience "beyond the club". The Division H governorship is yet another challenge to serve as a District Officer for an improved learning environment for all interested. My major concern as a District Officer has been and will continue to be cross-border linguistic integration. I see cultural diversity not as an obstacle, but as a richness that we have in Europe.

Toastmasters International, as one of the leading organisations to improve communication and leadership skills, especially here in District 59, has a special responsibility to serve as an example in the interest of European integration. Therefore, for the coming term, as the current Division H Governor, I see my personal challenge as integrating the interests of the English-speaking Toastmaster population in Iberia into the diverse concerns that the Spanish and the Portuguese clubs have.

## AREA H1 GOVERNOR

### Sheila MacMillan



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Sheila MacMillan has been a member of Mallorca Wordsmiths (formerly Mallorca Toastmasters) since shortly after its inception in 2003.

Originally from Scotland, she has lived in Mallorca for 10 years and prior to that worked on yachts in the Mediterranean and Caribbean for about 10 years.

In the club, she has taken various roles: Secretary, Treasurer, President and VP of Education (twice), and was instrumental in the success of the District conference held in Mallorca, Spain in 2005. She has just completed her Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) and is a Competent Leader (CL).

Now as Area H1 Governor, she is

looking forward to meeting all the members of the clubs in her area and intends to promote and strengthen existing clubs and to encourage the growth of new ones.

## AREA H2 GOVERNOR

### Joel Dupont



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On a personal level, I am working in a telecommunications company; I am married and I enjoy travelling and discovering new cultures.

I found out about Toastmasters while living in Dublin, Ireland through an ad in the newspaper.

One year later, I moved to Madrid and participated in the club's executive committee as Sergeant at Arms and then President of Madrid Toastmasters club.

I see Toastmasters not only as the cheapest way to improve public speaking skills but also as a medium for personal development and leadership skills by taking responsibility as a club officer. It is also a fantastic opportunity to meet people with very varied backgrounds and nationalities.

As Area Governor, I am looking forward to learning different ways of doing things by visiting the clubs in the area and promoting further cooperation and relationships amongst the clubs.

Our motto for this year is to set ambitious club objectives. As Les Brown said:

***Shoot for the moon and if you miss you are still among the stars.***

## AREA H3 GOVERNOR

### Marnee Benfield



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I was born in England, brought up in New Zealand from the age of three, and moved back to England at age eleven. I then moved to Spain when I was eighteen and have never considered leaving. My hobbies are reading and playing golf.

I joined Barcelona Toastmasters in January 2007 as part of a self-development course I was doing. Talking in front of people has never bothered me because as a language teacher I was used to being in front of a class. However making a speech within a limited time so that the message you get across to your audience is really what you want to say is more complicated and requires not only planning but above all, practice. My club helped me gain confidence in that area.

In July of that same year I was lucky to be voted in as President. And a very enjoyable TM year it has been!

Now as Area Governor one of my main goals will be to improve mentoring in the clubs in my district. Mentoring is very necessary to help new members get started on their Toastmasters adventure. However it is not always given the importance it deserves. So here's where ***I come in....***

## AREA H4 GOVERNOR

### Joao Mendoza



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He was born in Algarve, in the south part of Portugal but lives and works in Lisbon. He loves technology, skydiving, squash, travel and dancing. He is also a volunteer in some charity projects. He works as an IT Consultant Manager for an international company.

As a charter member of the first Toastmasters club in Portugal (Lisbon Toastmasters Club) he has been a TM since the beginning of 2006. Since then, he gained experience through working as Treasurer (2206), Sergeant-at-Arms (2007) and VP Membership (2008) at the club level and as Assistant Area Governor for Education and Training (2008).

As a member of the Portuguese Dynamic team, he sponsored Oporto TM Club and he is helping the third club, Braga TM Club, to charter.

In the incoming year, he will have two main roles:

- As an Easy Speak team member, he is involved in the rollout for Division H which has the goal of being the first Division that uses it for all clubs. He is the IT support for each club in Division H.
- As Area Governor, his goals for area H4 (two clubs in Portugal and two clubs in Andalucía, Spain), are very clear: help clubs to become better in quality, create a strong area for Andalucía (H4) and another for Portugal (H5).

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## DIVISION I GOVERNOR

### Günther Schmalzl



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To those who don't know me yet: My Toastmaster Hobby is: **"Stop fluctuation!"**

As you will easily find out, I am not the youngest on board. Therefore, there is some limited capacity left in meeting new people all the time. Quite honestly: It's great having new members come in, but even better if the older ones (not meant in calendar terms) stay a little longer.

All of us would save so much energy and life would be a lot easier for everyone if we had more experienced people around. Otherwise, we have to train newcomers way too early for officer jobs, only to find out that many members quit before they give their fifth speech.

About me: I was born in the last century, practice a decent job and joined Toastmasters in summer 2005. Due to my life expectation, I took my time and finished my Competent Communicator (CC) just a couple of weeks ago.

As Governor of Area I-3, I tried to preach my gospel **"Stop fluctuation!"** by offering the clubs a special DCP: Distinguished Champagne Program. Every club that succeeded in holding more than 75 percent of its members over a period of at least one year could earn a "Veuve Clicquot"! Most clubs made it! I keep battling on with new ideas for holding onto "old" members!

***Please, follow me!***

## AREA I1 GOVERNOR

### Erwin Pfuher



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Erwin joined The Munich Toastmasters Club in December 2006. In his first officer role, VP Public Relations, he focused on internal communication by editing the club newsletter "Soundbites". At the District 59 conference in spring 2008, Soundbites won 3rd place in the District newsletter contest.

Besides the Competent Communicator award, which he finished in February 2008, he is focusing on the Competent Leader Manual. This manual is still unknown by many members and therefore he considers it his mission to spread the word about the benefits of working through the leadership projects. The lessons he's learned after having completed 9 out of 10 projects are 1) the magic of personal praise, 2) how to successfully conduct a meeting and 3) speaking in public requires leadership skills. Currently, he is working on the advanced manuals "Speaking to Inform" and "Public Relations."

Since July he has been serving as Area Governor I-1 and as VP Public Relations for the Advanced Club 'Ceterum Censeo'. His objective is to establish a strong working relationship with and between the clubs.

## AREA I3 GOVERNOR

### Tom Kischkel



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On Stage with Toastmasters! "Where I am is in the front, and when I happen to be in the back, that then is the front." Somebody who joins Toastmasters with this motto is going to profit maximally from each meeting. Because this sentence means: At each meeting, I'm on stage in front of my club. Be it with a prepared speech or in another role -- each provides the possibility of a surprising and humorous presentation. Even the timer or ah-counter can glow with such a "mini performance".

We learn public speaking only by practicing. The mundane, brutal consequence: Only "stage time" counts for personal development. Those who at each meeting are "on stage" learn and advance. Those who advance stay loyal to Toastmasters: passive members usually leave the club soon. Conclusion: ***Come to each of your club's meetings and present speeches.***

This is my call as Area Governor I-3: I know all the excuses and subterfuges. But my goal with Toastmasters was from the start to be on stage at each meeting and give a speech until I had presented all 40 speech projects. This goal was crucial for me; I knew if I paused that my inner self would rejoice and my goal would become a castle in the air. In 2005 I joined the Rhetorenschmiede and in 2007 I reached my goal.

One last word: Let's assume an active Toastmaster aches to go into each meeting and be on stage. And let's assume his or her club cannot provide this. Then there are two options: A loser leaves Toastmasters. A winner sets up his/her own stage and builds a new club!

## AREA I2 GOVERNOR

### Bruno Mueller



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My Toastmaster career started in 2006, when I joined the Munich Prostrmaster's. A few months later I became a charter member of Munich Business Speakers, a bilingual (German/ English) Toastmasters Club. In this club I served as Secretary for the first year and now as VP PR.

The Toastmaster philosophy gives me opportunities to develop my skills and experience in dealing with human beings. It gives me great personal satisfaction and increases the potential for my professional career as Company Owner and Corporate Advisor, focused on utilizing and developing Market Entry Potential for clients.

Recently, I started serving as Area Governor, being responsible for 4 multilingual Clubs in the Bavaria regions, developing my leadership skills even further.

Toastmasters is a network of motivated people, who take their future into their own hands. I think the "principle of coherence" describes very well what I feel about Toastmasters:

***"Every single member of a Toastmasters Club reinforces the other fellow Toastmasters in a way that the intergrated sum of the Club is much more than just the sum of the potential of the individual members."***

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