



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Thomas Wendling**

Candidate's Office: **Division Director** District Number: **26**

Toastmasters member since: **March 2021**

Education:

B.S. Physics, Virginia Commonwealth University
M.S. Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech
M.B.A Virginia Tech
M.I.M. International Management, Thunderbird School of Global Management

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

- President, Highlands Ranch | Lone Tree Toastmasters, July 1, 2023 to June 30th, 2024
- Director, Urban Area 2, District 26, July 1, 2023 to June 30th, 2024

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

None (yet).

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

For most of my career, I have had sales management roles where I was responsible for leading and mentoring sales people to grow international business in the environmental and civil engineering space. Since 2011, I have had thought leadership roles volunteering with the Casualty Actuarial Society in order to help shape the actuarial profession .

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

From January 2017 to May 2020 I was a member of the board of directors of a large charter school of about 2,000 students. I was responsible for the school's strategic planning, risk management, and financial oversight of operations at STEM School Highlands Ranch. In my current role at Veolia, I am responsible for synthesis and execution of Veolia's global digital sustainability solutions strategy, which involves positioning the company in the context of anticipated global technology changes expected to impact our industry.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Apart from my above fiduciary role with school finances, I am also a credentialed actuary. My 17 years at Jacobs gave me responsibility for planning and managing the budgets of over 100 long-term water operations and maintenance contracts projects ranging from \$500k/year to \$15MM/year in extended service contracts of 3 to 20 year terms. This experience provided me with a broad knowledge of labor, materials, and energy risk and cost accounting.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

In my school board role, I helped develop policies around cybersecurity, privacy, safety, election procedures and amendments to bylaws. As an engineer in charge of operations of public infrastructure at Jacobs, I have developed standard operating procedures and emergency response plans.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Leadership influences the culture of an organization which is the foundation of how well it delivers on its purpose. A leader not only communicates information on strategy and policy, but also transmits integrity, energy, and purpose through behavior and in the selection of people to develop, mentor, and inspire that culture.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

To me, our noble purpose is to help each other find our own voices. Empowering people to advocate for themselves and for those they care about requires speaking and leadership skills, which are shareable. I want to benefit from one of the best leadership training models to help myself, my family, and my community learn and then share those skills.

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

Growth of membership is probably the most important objective that we should strive for. We need to communicate the extraordinary value of Toastmasters to affect retention (and engagement) of our current members. Making sure that Toastmasters is truly the supportive and positive learning community that we say it is (through culture) will ultimately lead to retention, greater membership numbers, and the foundation of new clubs in our district. In a time when people are actively looking for community and connectedness, people need to feel they have found a home when they walk into one of our meetings.

Additional information about yourself:

I speak Spanish, French, German, and I am beginning my journey towards learning Portuguese.