INTERNATIONAL OFFICER/DIRECTOR CANDIDATE
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Candidate's Name: Christopher G. Rio

Candidate's Office: International Director

Region Number: 7

Toastmasters member since: August 1995

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Climatology, McGill University, 1978 Master of Science, Computer Science, NYIT 1985

Employer and/or position: United States Navy, Assistant Program Manager for System Engineering, Target Control

Served as district governor of district number 38

Term of service: 2007-2008

In term as district governor, district achieved: ☑ Distinguished ☐ Select Distinguished ☐ President's Distinguished

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service (international and regional level):

District Governor, D38, 2007-2008
Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, D38, 2006-2007
Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, D38, 2005-2006

Toastmasters honors and recognition (international level):

Distinguished District (DG, D38, 2007-2008)
Excellence in Education & Training (LGET, D38, 2006-2007)

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a Board member:

Developing and implementing processes and procedures for management and engineering at FAA and CSC .
Managed the FAAs Oceanic Development Facility. Responsible for budgets, staffing, planning.
Managed the Atlantic City PRC and BIT Site. Responsible for budgets, staffing, business development.
Managed all BCI Projects at FAATC. Responsible for budgets, program reviews, program execution.
Assistant Program Manager for US Navy Target Control Systems. Budgeting, execution, contractor management.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Planned, developed and implemented processes and procedures at BIT, Merrin Financial, FAA and CSC. Led the organizations in getting CMM certification necessary for capturing business with Federal Government.
Led effort to develop Grace Episcopal Church mission statement.
Developed Plans for Operational Test & Evaluation of Controller to Pilot Data Link Program.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

Headed the Audit Committee at Grace Episcopal Church.
Responsible for budgeting, plans and controls, earned value as Program/Site Manager at BIT, PRC, BCI.
Audit Committee Chair for District 38 multiple times.
As APMSE Target Control Systems responsible Budgets, Earned Value Management, Contractor Management.

What experience do you have in developing policies?

Head of Policy Committee at Grace Episcopal Church. Developed and Implemented Policy and Procedures for Board .
Developed time recording and reporting policy at BIT.
Developed Policies and Procedures for process improvement in program planning, management, configuration management, quality assurance, testing, peer reviews and earned value management for CSC and the FAA.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Always validate opposing opinions in order to foster open conversation and a better understand all options.
Gather all the facts, analyze them and understand them before making a decision.
Determine strengths and weaknesses of all on the team and assign personnel accordingly.
Delegate. Don't assume things are proceeding per plan, follow-up. Reward success in public, correct in private.

What experience and key strengths would you bring to the Board of Directors?

On the Board in several volunteer organizations (churches, AGO). Was Sr. Warden (Chairman) at Grace Episcopal.
Extensive process and process change experience, in planning, developing and implementing change.
I have a demonstrable track record of presenting different points of view in a positive fashion.
Ability to multitask, make things happen, put things in perspective, and prioritize. Have been recognized for this.

Why do you want to serve as an international officer/director?

I want to help shape our evolving policy and act as a change agent. In particular I believe that the leadership track can be improved and that the role of regions can change to better serve our clubs and members. I also feel that my approach of putting the member first, is the key to success of our organization. I have the personality and skills to help district and regional leaders understand this concept and to use it to help build better clubs and districts.

What volunteer experience do you have outside of Toastmasters?

Volunteered as Minister of Music / Organist, and Board of Directors (Vestry) at Multiple Episcopal Churches.
Managed the facility for Sperry Athletic Club
Served on the Board for the SE Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Have you worked with other Boards of Directors outside of Toastmasters? If so, describe your experience.

Was on the Board of Directors (vestry) for 3 different Episcopal churches. Was Sr. Warden (chairman) at Grace Episcopal Church.
Member of the Board for SE New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

In your opinion, what are Toastmasters International's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

The fundamental objective of Toastmasters International is to make effective communication a worldwide reality by educating men and women through the process of self-improvement and leadership training so that they may achieve their full potential. I would help achieve this in two ways: Assisting District Leaders and Regional Advisors in implementing Policy and Processes to achieve this goal; helping shape policy to better serve members, clubs, districts.

Additional information about candidate:

I am married, have 2 adult children and currently work for the US Navy as Assitant Program Manager for Target Control Systems. Much of my career has focused on process improvement and technical program management. I am also an athlete (still run marathons) and a musician, play keyboard and sing. I continue to serve volunteer organizations.