

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER/DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: Denis McCord

Candidate's Office: International Director Region Number: 12

Toastmasters member since: September 1983

Education:
New Zealand Certificate in Survey Draughting, New Zealand Institute of Management Supervision Certificate

Employer and/or position: Ministry of Justice / Settlement Advisor- Protection Mechanism

Served as district governor of district number 72 Term of service: 2010-2011

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

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service (international and regional level):
Chairman District Nominating Committee, 2011-12, Brand Ambassador 2011-2012, District Governor 2010-11
Lt Governor Education and Training 2009-10, Lt Governor Marketing 2008-09
Division Governor 2002-03, Area Governor 1996-97, Area Governor 1997-98

Toastmasters honors and recognition (international level):
Distinguished Toastmaster, Excellence in Education and Training 2009-10, Excellence in Marketing 2008-09
President's Distinguished Division 2002-03
Select Distinguished Area 1997-98, Select Distinguished Area 1996-97

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a Board member:
I currently project manage a process in the Office of Treaty Settlements, part of the Ministry of Justice, dealing with surplus Crown-owned land. This work includes: analysing submissions, compliance with legislation and policies, reporting to an inter-departmental committee, reporting to Ministers of the Crown. I have led teams in the maintenance of part of New Zealand's record of surveyed land boundaries. I have also had experience in, financial reporting, estimating and quoting, introducing new technology, serving on inter-departmental committees.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?
I have experience in planning of production to meet client requirements, developing and implementing changes using new technology. I have led a Church Building Redevelopment Project through scoping and concept to construction stages including gaining necessary approvals from four levels of Church committees. Most recently I have helped with the scoping/development of new processes associated with a website and improving office-wide processes using cloud technology.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?
I have experience in the preparation of budgets for production units I have managed, providing estimates and quotes for land information products/services and mapping and invoicing, the monitoring of actual/budget costs. In my community activities I have prepared budgets for two church building redevelopment projects including assessment of tenders.

What experience do you have in developing policies?

I have helped set policies in national standards for mapping, land information products and governance issues. I developed information sheets for land information products and services for use on a national basis in the marketing of the former Department of Survey and Land Information's work. In recent years I have assisted in developing standards for production processes.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

As a leader, I learnt very early to appreciate skills and talents of those who make up teams and that team members need to know where they fit in or how they can contribute to the task(s). In customer services and leading teams one needs to listen and to question appropriately to understand issues.

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

I would bring my analytical skills drawn from land investigation work to satisfy governance requirements together with experience in planning of workloads to meet statutory and client requirements. Also I bring experience from seeing the big picture from planning work, serving on office, inter-departmental committees and community committees. Also I bring my many active years in Toastmasters, and passion for what membership of Toastmasters International achieves.

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

I have benefited from the Toastmasters programme and fully support the programme seeing the changes in many members' lives from the programme and comradeship within Toastmasters whether in the club, area, division, district or international level. I can contribute from my life and work skills and Toastmasters' experiences to assist in the Board's functions.

What volunteer experience do you have outside of Toastmasters?

I have served on various committees over the years including local and regional levels. The organisations include: Auckland Tramping Club (Hiking) – Secretary, Trips Officer; Social Convenor; Knox Scottish Country Dancing Club -Secretary/Treasurer, President; Naenae Boy Scout Group – committee member, Chairman; Army Cadets Youth Group – committee member; two Church Building Redevelopment Project Committees -both as Convenor.

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

No. However, I have served on inter-departmental committees and I am currently servicing one including provision of technical advice as necessary. The experiences gained were to understand both the role of the committee and as a member.

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

To promote the benefits of Toastmasters worldwide through its member clubs at a standard of excellence. Continue to promote rebranding for recruitment; place some emphasis on the younger age group and also membership retention. I would assist in achieving these objectives through assessing, discussion, and training and encourage members to assist in meeting the challenges.

Additional information about candidate: