

# INTERNATIONAL OFFICER/DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: Joy Lewis

Candidate's Office: Past District 14 Governor Region Number: 8

Toastmasters member since: 1997

Education:  
M.Ed. Adult Continuing Education and Literacy Development

Employer and/or position: Contract Administrator, Fidelity Information Services, LLC

Served as district governor of district number 14 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):  
2012; 2003: Volunteer International Convention (Credentials; Volunteer Center). 2012 and 2008: Presidential Visit Chair (D84 and D14). 2010: Reviewed Interpersonal Communications Manual for the Youth Communications Manual. 2009-2010: Member ILC. 2008-2001: District 14 Governor, LGET, LGM, PRO, SAA, Club Extension Chair, Area Governor.

Toastmasters honors and recognition (international level):  
2009: Presidential Citation. 2007: Excellence in Education-District 14. 2003: District 14 Toastmaster of the Year. 2002: District 14 Area Governor of the Year. 2002 and 2007 Distinguished Toastmaster.

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a Board member:  
As a contract administrator, I interpret, negotiate, and write multi-million dollar client agreements. This work requires attention to detail, careful listening skills, and the translation of concepts into written words that meet the purposes of the parties involved. These elements of my work experience put me in a position to understand and evaluate the policies that come before the Board, work through issues that may arise, and ensure that the agreed upon ideas are correctly memorialized.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?  
The work that I do requires the development of strategies for negotiating agreements. This requires a collaborative effort among the sales people, the technical advisors, and the company's executives. I take an active role in this collaboration and receive recognition for my role. Additionally, in a volunteer position I once held, I worked with a small business to set a two-year strategy for growing the business. And, of course, the years of district leadership involved planning for the district's success for years out into the future, not just for the current year.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?  
Aside from personal finances, my primary experience in the area of finance has been the development of budgets for each of the years that I was in district leadership. I reviewed departmental budgets in the early years of my career.

What experience do you have in developing policies?

I have had some experience in developing policies with the owners of the small business mentioned above and with a non-profit that I worked with for about six months. My work also requires a clear understanding and application of corporate policy related to contracting and legal matters.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

The key lessons learned were to be enthusiastic and committed to the leadership role; communicate personally with team members; be flexible because things will change; accept that sometimes things will go off the tracks and learn to deal with the discouragement when they do; use a mentor; and be yourself.

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

I listen and absorb information before I make decisions. In my job, I use this key skill almost daily. I am reliable; when asked to do something, I do it. With a Master's degree in adult education and a Bachelor's in applied behavioral sciences, my education is a strong asset, especially regarding educational programs and member retention. At the level of the Board of Directors, Toastmasters is a business; my business and corporate experience will serve the Board well.

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

Having been a member since 1997, I have seen the good and the bad sides of Toastmasters, and I have a good understanding of where the organization wants to go. My maturity, my business experience, my critical thinking skills, and my enthusiasm for Toastmasters make me a good fit for the international director position. I have seen countless individuals benefit from Toastmasters; I would like the opportunity to serve and make it a better organization.

What volunteer experience do you have outside of Toastmasters?

Business oversight for a small gymnastics business  
Board member for non-profit  
Community ambassador for local hospice  
Speaking to college classes on various topics

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

I served on the board of directors for a non-profit for about six months in 2008. During this time, we set the calendar for the upcoming year, reviewed promotional materials, and began the process of establishing policies for the organization.

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

Keeping in mind our guiding principles and the existing strategic plan, I would like to see focus on these key elements: (1) member retention through greater understanding of member needs; (2) fresh and relevant educational/leadership materials, with a multi-cultural environment in mind, through the use of the principles of adult education; (3) Toastmasters recognizability through use of social media and more traditional media outlets.

Additional information about candidate:

Joy Lewis: career woman, educator, speaker, leader, grandparent. I am successful in all of these arenas because I share my knowledge and show people how to apply that knowledge. I read once that what is important is the power of our example, not the example of our power. I would like to be a leadership example for the members of Toastmasters.