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Photo Available Upon Request

## ILLINOIS MAN ELECTED TO TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL BOARD

**Rancho Santa Margarita, CA** – Mike Raffety, a resident of Chicago, Illinois, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Toastmasters International, a worldwide nonprofit that teaches skills in public speaking and leadership. He was elected to the two-year volunteer term at the organization’s International Convention – held last month in Calgary.

Raffety, who works for the worldwide operations and technology group of Northern Trust, has served in a number of leadership positions within Toastmasters, including District Governor (of District 30 in Illinois). He notes that his experience in the organization has helped him in a variety of ways, boosting his financial savvy and strategic-planning skills, as well as enabling him to motivate those under his guidance.

“Toastmasters has made me a confident speaker and a more effective listener, and it’s vastly improved my evaluation skills,” he says. “The opportunity to practice leadership skills is just ideal, too – if you can lead people in a volunteer nonprofit group, you lead people anywhere!”

Raffety, who holds an MBA from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, has won a number of awards with Toastmasters, including the “Excellence in Marketing” and the “Excellence in Education and Training” awards.

Since its founding in 1924, Toastmasters International has helped 4 million men and women develop their communication and leadership abilities. The organization has doubled its membership over the last 10 years, and now has approximately 235,000 members, spread across 11,700 clubs in 92 countries.

For more information on Toastmasters International, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

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