

# DAVID NEILSEN

**Candidate's Office:** District Club Growth Director

**District 43**

**Toastmasters member since:** 2020

**Education:** Master of Vocational-Technical Education

**Employer and/or position:** Retired

## **Toastmaster's offices held and terms of service (Club and District level):**

- Talk of the Town Toastmasters:
  - VPM 2021 - 2022
  - VPE 2022 - 2024
  - Pres 2024 - present
- Tupelo-Lee County Toastmasters VPE 2024 - present
- Area Director 2022 – 2024

## **Toastmasters Honors & Recognition:**

- District 43 Resilience Award 2023
- Club Coach 2024

## **Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a Board Member:**

I am a retired naval officer. I worked for over 10 years in anti-terrorism and force protection. I worked to develop and implement a plan for the security upgrade of a NATO pier complex in Greece and served as the Security Department head at a submarine base in Italy.

I developed and implemented the Computer Networking curriculum still used at Itawamba Community College.

## **What experience do you have in strategic planning?**

Developed a two-year curriculum that included methods for updating curriculum in a rapidly developing field and methods of providing employment opportunities for future graduates.

Providing long-term security measures for a 5-pier, critical infrastructure, NATO port.

## **What experience do you have in the area of finance?**

Beyond serving as treasurer for a local Civitan club, none.

## **What experience do you have in developing policies?**

In 2001/2002, when assigned to the newly created Security Department of the NATO port in Souda Bay, Crete, Greece, I worked with the Greek navy leadership to develop and implement a security plan involving the naval forces of two countries.

In 1994/95, I developed a complete curriculum for a new course at Itawamba Community College, which is still in existence today.

**What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?**

You cannot do it by yourself.

In volunteer organizations, you have to reach out to 100 people to get 3 or 4 active workers.

There is no substitute for in-person contact.

**Why do you want to serve as a District leader?**

Toastmasters has had a major impact on my communications abilities and on my leadership abilities. I have served as a club officer, a club coach, a mentor, and an Area Director. This office implies a 3-to-4-year commitment to working for the membership of the district. In my estimation, this is the best way for me to utilize those skills and that training to serve the current and future members of this District.

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

As I see it, the district has three major objectives:

Find and retain members, build clubs, and ensure that members are being trained as communicators and leaders. All three are critical. To that end, active committees must be maintained which include members from all major areas of the district, allowing committee members to have in-person contact with members, clubs, and prospective clubs.

**Additional information about candidate:**

David and his wife Carolyn recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Besides Toastmasters, David is a member of and actively serves Civitan, the American Legion, Tupelo Running Club, Tupelo Community Theater Senior Troop, and serves on the board of the ARC of NE Mississippi. David has been a runner for 45 years. He strives to run a half marathon every month and should complete his goal to run a half marathon in every state in the union within the next two years.