

My Toastmaster Journey began with my dad who was in Toastmasters when I was young. However, my own personal journey began when I joined ETC. ETC. Toastmasters February 2009. I joined the club because of my extreme fear of public speaking. I learned to speak in multiple venues and not be afraid. I also grew as a leader and served in multiple officer roles.

I went to work for Brighthouse Financial and joined Transformation Toastmaster in 2018. Since joining the club, I have served in every officer role. During my year as club president the club reached Presidents Distinguished for the first time. This was an accomplishment for the entire club, they all worked to meet our club success plan goals and reach President's Distinguished.

I became the Area 33 Director in July of 2020. That has been my favorite role in my leadership journey. I enjoyed visiting the clubs and getting to know the members and officers. I was honored to receive the Area Director of the year award for 2020-2021.

I served as a club coach with Kayren Cathcart for ATD Toastmasters and we helped ATD reach Distinguished June of 2021. I served as club coach for Ballantyne Lunch Toastmasters and worked with the members to help them reach Distinguished in 2022.

My life and work within Toastmasters culminated at the end of June in 2021 when I earned my Distinguished Toastmaster Award. I am currently enrolled in multiple Pathways and am working on my second DTM.

I served as the Division D Director for the 2021-2022 Toastmasters year. Working with my Area Directors to create a Division D Success plan and we all helped train club officers. During the year I continued to build relationships with Division D club members.

This Toastmaster year I served as the Club Growth Director. That has been my most challenging role. I had an incredible team this year that helped with the planning and execution of demo meetings. Other team members helped with finding sponsors, mentors and coaches as well as seeking opportunities to build new clubs. We continue to support the district by having demo meetings and reaching out to new club opportunities to help our district grow.

My Toastmaster's journey will continue as the Program Quality Director for the 2023-2024 year. I am looking forward to this new opportunity.

**Julie Richardt, DTM**