



District Leadership Committee Report 2026

District 25 has a proud heritage of leaders who actively live the core values of Toastmasters. In looking for new leaders, the committee not only considers existing qualities and skills, but also the ability to build new skills, and create an environment conducive to growing future leaders. In addition to skills in strategic thinking, project/program management, effective communication, leading teams, and effective training, district leaders need to have a core understanding of Toastmasters International, including the mission, vision, and interconnection among clubs, areas, divisions, and districts.

Toastmasters International directs the Committee to nominate a minimum of one candidate for each of the offices of District Director and Program Quality Director, two or more candidates for the office of Club Growth Director, and at least one candidate for any other elected office. Because the committee confirmed only one candidate for Club Growth Director, this section of the report is incomplete. The Club Growth Director office is open to floor candidates. All qualified candidates must notify the District Director seven (7) days prior to the Annual District Council meeting of their intent to run from the floor.

The committee considers all declared candidates and deliberations are confidential. All candidates have been notified of their nomination for office and have confirmed their willingness to accept the nomination.

The District Leadership Committee strongly recommends that every District Leader, including the top District Leaders, be assigned a mentor to support their leadership development and strengthen their service to District 25.

After carefully considering the qualifications of each candidate and based on a majority vote of the committee, the following names are placed in nomination to seek elected office for the 2026-2027 Toastmasters year:

District Director – Najaf Dostaliyev, Distinguished Toastmaster

Program Quality Director – Michelle Bayes, Distinguished Toastmaster

Club Growth Director – Open to Qualified Floor Candidates

Kelsey Dean, Strategic Relationships 5 (to run from floor)

Division A Director – Yujun Liang, Visionary Communication 5, Team Collaboration 5

Division B Director – Tabassum Mahzabeen, Persuasive Influence 4, Motivational Strategies 3

Division C Director – Chris Sunderman, Dynamic Leadership 3; Persuasive Influence 1

Division D Director – Lydeisha Gossett, Presentation Mastery 3; Team Collaboration 3

Division E Director – Nansii Downer, Dynamic Leadership 4

Division F Director – Karen Shadden, Distinguished Toastmaster

Thank you, members of the Committee for your service to the district and your work on this committee. Madam District Director, thank you for the trust you have placed in the District Leadership Committee.

Ninfa Flewitt, DTM
Past District Director
District Leadership Committee Chair