

I have been an active member for over five years. During which time I have held most of the officer roles within my club including President, Vice President of Education, Treasurer and Sergeant of Arms as well as serving as the Area 22 Director for the 2022 – 2023 Toastmasters year.

I have participated in several contests both as a participant as well as a contest chair. If you have ever been a part of a contest, you may have an idea of how many individuals it takes to be successful. Knowing many clubs do not have more than ten members it not only makes contests on a club level impossible, but it is difficult for Area and Division contests as well. In 2023 I was the Contest Chair of the first hybrid Area and Division contests held on the same day. This was a huge success and allowed all roles to be fulfilled and eliminated the need for resources another time.

Toastmasters International does not provide a lot of resources for marketing existing clubs so we need to ensure we are taking full advantage of what we can. While I was Area 22 Director, I saw my clubs struggling with members and trying to find different ways to help them. I realized there is money available no one is taking advantage of through member and club incentives!

Even though members did not feel it was worth filling out paperwork to only get a few dollars for themselves I thought outside of the box and confirmed members could donate their monies and make a purchase for the club. Clubs were able to take advantage of over \$150 of free money that otherwise would have been wasted.

I am a firm believer there is always more than one way to solve a problem. If something was a great idea and has worked for others, why did it not work this time too? There is not a one size fits all answer but by learning more about individual clubs and the communities they are in we can figure it out together.