

Strive for Your Summit by Being Your Best

Journey of a Division Governor

Anthony Chim, DTM, Division G Governor 2002-2003

In May 2002, I was elected to be the Division G Governor. Wow! What a big task! Dino Kruger, the out-going Division G Governor, helped me to recruit a team of Area Governors: Verla Boyle (G8), Jill Malo (G10), Heather Miller (G23), Liz Fisher (G35), Nadia Kozak-Campbell (G36), and Chuck LeBlanc (G38). Then I invited Mona Cooley to be my mentor and invited other phenomenal Toastmasters to join the Division G Team: Lloyd Gwilliam (Public Relations), Gerda Timm (Assistant), Sheila Cooper and George Makahoniuk (Contest), Katrina Aburrow (Chief Judge), Nandini Venkatesan (Resource), and Mike Conrad (Education and Training). What a team!

“Food is the shortest way to connect people” (Chinese Proverb). How true! I hosted an “ice breaker” dinner at my house to introduce all of the team members to each other. We had such a blast! Right at this moment, I knew that everyone would work extremely well with each other and we would achieve a lot in the next few months and I was right! Throughout the year, all team members contributed their talents, commitment, insights, and energy to make a lot of impossible tasks possible. I still vividly remember all the “out of town” trips to Medicine Hat and Lethbridge with my team members. I still cherish all the laughter on these trips and I still appreciate the love, caring, support, and encouragement that ALL team members have given me.

During our Year-end Celebration in June 2003, I said that I had a wonderful year as a Division Governor. Let me “upgrade” my saying to “I had the best year possible for a Division Governor.” These are the Top 5 factors that made my year as Division Governor the best of the best:

1. Teamwork: Excellent communication among team members, dedicated and competent team members, passionate team players.
2. Patience: We were extremely patient with lots of problems that arose during the year, i.e. low membership, possible lost clubs, etc.
3. Leadership: Wonderful Area Governors, great Division Governor Assistants (Public Relations, Contest Chair, Education, Chief Judge), excellent club executives, and of course a fantastic Division Governor (!).
4. Support: The support that we offered each other was amazing. I’m so touched by the fact that some team members traveled long distances to support others.
5. Educational Values: High Performance Leadership is definitely a highlight. Our membership-building program was a success. The TLI’s in all three cities went very well and they were vital to the survival of many clubs.

SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF:

1. No club loss this year! We gained 3 clubs (the best in District 42 this year).
2. 75% of club officers in the first term and 85% in the second term got trained (the best in District 42 this year). Special thanks to Mike, Lloyd, Nandini, Marvin, Heather and Mona for traveling long distance to help us achieve this.
3. 100% Area Governors got trained. Note: Division G Team always had the best attendance in all district trainings and district executive meetings.
4. The two division contests were excellent. The quality of organization and speeches was superb. Special thanks to George and Sheila!
5. Our division has reached the 30-club mark the first time ever!
6. Two out of four President's Distinguished Areas (District 42) belong to Division G.
7. Our website was extremely effective in enhancing and strengthening our division. Lloyd, great job!
8. The High Performance Leadership program was a success. Special thanks to all participants.
9. 53% of the clubs over 20+ members (comparing to 21% last year), 27% with a membership of 14-19 members, 17% with a membership of 10-13 members, and only 1 club has a membership of under 10.
10. Speakers Choice, in which George was the President, was the first club in District 42 to achieve the President's Distinguished status, and Area G10, in which Jill was the Area Governor, was the first Area in District 42 to achieve the President's Distinguished recognition.
11. Area G36 and Area G38 teams were vital forces behind the success of the 2003 District 42 Spring Convention.
12. We achieved 58 CTM's (2.3 CTM's per club), 34 ATM's (1.3 ATM's per club), and 11 clubs got distinguished, select or President's distinguished.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

1. 47% of clubs are under charter strength.
2. We experienced a financial loss in our Spring Division Contest.
3. Some clubs are very relaxed about paperwork. For our successors, please be "politely aggressive" to the clubs next year about paper works, i.e. semi-dues, club officer list, etc.
4. We need more Toastmasters from Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and other towns to attend Toastmasters events, i.e. TLI's, conference, convention, etc., just to get more energy.

FINAL LAST WORDS:

What a wonderful journey! I have grown enormously as a leader and a person. Indeed, the Division G Team had a wonderful year this year. I strongly believe that our new Division G Governor Heather Miller and the new Division G Team will strengthen our division further this coming year. Together, we have built a strong foundation for years to come. It is wonderful to see most team members will stick with the Division G team this coming year. Once again, special thanks to all Division G Team Members! Yes, we did it!

(June 2003)