

May 8, 2013

Fellow Toastmasters,

I requested district governor elect, Kate Olsen, if she was willing to share her speech delivered at the Spring 2013 conference, banquet event in Rochester last Saturday 5/4/2103. She has kindly consented. Here it is for the benefit of all Toastmasters who were unable to attend the banquet event and hear her message. I have taken the liberty to underscore some of the words/phrases that I believe are important to note and understand.

Sam Mehta, DTM, PDG

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Good Evening Fellow Toastmasters, Friends, and Distinguished Guests,

Welcome and greetings.

Did everyone enjoy the conference today? It certainly has been a day I will remember.

There are so many people that I would like to thank. I joined Toastmasters 2003. I have learned and received support from many compassionate Toastmasters, friends, family and especially my daughter Emily; who have shared my journey every step of the way for the past ten years. Thank you. These two words of gratitude I wish to convey to everyone in this room tonight and to the members of District 65 that have helped me grow and become the leader that I am today. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As your incoming District Governor I am excited to work closely and together as a team, with our newly elected officers team and every one of you here this evening and also with the members that are unable to attend. My primary goals are two-fold. To serve the members of the district and to bring District 65 to Distinguished status. I want your help and cooperation in accomplishing these goals.

I am looking forward to speaking with the Past District Governors; I want to listen, understand and learn from your words of wisdom, to help our District, Divisions, Areas, and most importantly the members.

You know the expression the “buck stops here.” In district 65, it stops with the District Governor. By that I mean..... I will ensure that every Toastmasters experience in district 65 is a rich one. I will ensure that every club in the district is provided with the resources it requires in order to be successful. I will ensure that my “district team” is available to provide help, offer guidance and give hands-on services, which the clubs and the members need. My job is to ensure that you – the members of this elite organization become successful.

Success is measured in many ways. As a new Toastmaster, can you recall giving your first speech, the Icebreaker? That is a defining moment, can we continue on in this extraordinary venture? Making decisions of commitment can be frightful yet fruitful. As your leader, I encourage every Toastmaster to empower themselves to make the most out of their membership in this wonderful organization.

Our Founder, Ralph Smedley stated "We learn best in moments of enjoyment". It did not take long for me to realize that raising my beautiful and understanding teenage daughter Emily, was great source of my speech materials and in process, also a source of retaliations. Practicing my speeches in front of her, at times was worst then grounding her! I recall Emily cautioning her friends upon entering our home; "you may be my mom's next speech material! "Be careful what you do or especially what you say!" Yes, we do learn best, in our moments of enjoyment and having fun.

My friends and fellow Toastmasters, I am ready to start work as YOUR District Governor in less than two months. It is said that a leader must remember where she came from; where she is going; and who she must account. I pledge this evening to be accountable and transparent as your next leader. Thank you for your trust. I will not let you down. My passion for Toastmasters is endless; my passion to succeed is huge; and my passion to serve you is greatest.

(The above speech was delivered by Kate Olsen, DTM, District 65 Governor, elect.  
Spring 2013 Spring conference at RIT in Rochester – May 4, 2013)