

Recession, unemployment and D-65 Toastmasters

Fellow Toastmasters:

The district 65 yahoo group (tmdistrict65@yahoogleroups.com) is capably managed and administered by **Gordon Penniston, DTM, PDG** for the past several years. The yahoo group provides an excellent platform for exchanging ideas and generating discussions related to the Toastmasters program and activities. The practice of good communication and leadership skills are central to our organization's mission and district 65 yahoo group provides this wonderful opportunity to share our experiences, knowledge, and opinions with fellow Toastmasters.

Gordon Penniston, as the administrator of this on-line and free service, makes it possible for all of us to remain easily connected, and we thank **Gordon** for his selfless service and are grateful for his dedication to the toastmasters program in general and his continued commitment to fellow toastmasters in district 65.

All of you are well aware of the tough economic times and some more than others. We also know of many toastmasters in our district who have become unemployed due to the the economic downturn. It is widely believed that the economic conditions and the related unemployment may get worse in the foreseeable future, before it begins to turn around and get better. How can district 65 toastmasters assist fellow toastmasters, who are searching for employment opportunities? One way is to make more toastmasters in district 65 become aware as to who is looking for employment (and of what kind, etc.) and use electronic communications as a tool for posting their respective resumes. Today one may be gainfully employed, but next month or down the road one may lose his or her job and will need some form of networking help and directions in order to get employed. I believe that toastmasters have a role to play here and can help!

I would therefore like to suggest to **Gordon Penniston**, to consider allowing toastmasters seeking employment to place their resume on the district 65 yahoo group. These toastmasters will voluntarily place their resumes (one-time only) on the district 65 yahoo group, so that other toastmasters in the district become aware and can possibly help and/or direct them for networking and employment purposes. Once the resume is sent (and distributed) on the district 65 yahoo group, further and subsequent communications if any, will be directly between the prospective responders and the unemployed toastmaster, without the district 65 yahoo group's involvement. This on-line service can be made available for a limited period of time, e.g., for next six months to one year, with all the necessary in-house limitations and/or restrictions, so that the functionality, integrity, as well as the traffic on the district communication network, will not be compromised or overwhelmed.

I would like other fellow toastmasters to express their opinions about the practicality and feasibility of such an undertaking and especially **Gordon's** view, as he may be impacted the most, by possible surge (but temporary) in the on-line traffic.

Fellow Toastmasters often ask the question - WITFM (what's in it for me)? The answer is very simple. Nothing - other than in making Toastmasters in D-65 aware of the situation of the unemployed fellow toastmasters, and in-turn, help them with possible leads and directions. In addition, of course their sincere appreciation and gratitude in demonstrating that district 65 toastmasters do care. In Toastmasters organization, we often talk about fellowship, camaraderie, and our mutual support system. This can be one of the ways in which we can put our rhetoric into action, by genuinely helping some of the unemployed toastmasters in district 65.

Best regards and I wish gainful and continued employment to each and everyone of you.

Sam

Sam Mehta, DTM, PDG

Syracuse, NY

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