



Lyle Wiedeman  
Candidate for  
Division G Governor  
2008-2009

I have been a Toastmaster in Founder's District for thirteen years. In that time I have served in a variety of club officer positions (including President and VPE), as District Webmaster, Directory Chair, Founder Editor (during which year Founder's District won the Top-Ten Newsletters Award), Area Governor twice (leading my area to Select Distinguished the first time, and on track to do the same this year), and Division G Governor once.

I believe the Distinguished Club Plan is a tool for club success, but does not represent success in and of itself. Clubs that engage in the activities that earn Distinguished status (membership, education, officer training, etc.) end up with more member growth, more pride, energy, and fellowship, and overall club health. Areas are as strong as their Clubs, and Divisions are as strong as their Areas. Of the 24 clubs currently in Division G, three appear to be no longer meeting, one is in critical condition (less than 10 members), seven others are under charter strength, and thirteen are at charter strength. Membership seems to me a critical barrier to Division success at this time. Three techniques I have seen which help struggling clubs are Club Coaches, Speechcraft, and partnership with another local healthy club. I will consult with the current Division and Area leaders to explore these and other ways to improve membership in Division G. Clubs also need effective leadership, and training officers will have to be another priority. I applaud the efforts of the current Area Governors: of the 21 meeting clubs, and the 42 opportunities to train officers, 16 had all 7 officers trained, and 21 had at least the four required for DCP credit: 88%. This represents momentum to sustain into the next year.

What I hope to gain as Division Governor in 2008-9 is personal growth as a leader. I have been Division Governor once before, and while the Division did well that year in terms of the Distinguished Plan, I feel it was largely accomplished on momentum: G was a strong Division with many healthy clubs. This time, the Division has real needs that can be addressed through developing a plan, bringing the Area Governor team on board, and monitoring success through the course of the year.

