

AREA 10 INTERVIEW SERIES – Tabitha Grimes, Northpark Toastmasters, Covington (June 2017)

*Question 1: What made you seek out Toastmasters International [TI]? When was this?*

The company that I am currently employed with chartered a Corporate Club and I was interested, so a few years later when they were established [2009], I joined.

*Question 2: What professional and/or personal goals are you pursuing through TI?*

Within the next few months, I will finish up my Competent Leadership Award and I will continue moving forward with the Advanced Communicator series.

*Question 3: Which goals did you already achieve?*

I achieved my Competent Communicator.

*Question 4: What is your ultimate ("big hairy") goal? There does not have to be any, but perhaps there is a "what if..."?*

My ultimate goal is personal growth and TI provides tools that strengthen and improve my communication skills. Specifically, I joined Toastmasters, so I may learn how to convey messages with confidence and clarity.

*Question 5: What was your funniest Toastmasters experience?*

The funniest Toastmasters experience I've had was building a balloon castle with tape with our District Director [Mohamad Qayoom] during our DEC [District Executive Committee] training.

*Question 6: What was the Toastmasters experience that influenced you the most? And why?*

Being a Club Officer has given me the opportunity to take an educational journey with our club members while they complete the program. I watch folks grow and by attending meetings and talking with club members, I learn a lot of tips and tricks about how to handle sticky situations that I would have not otherwise found.

*Question 7: What did you think about the Toastmasters competitions you participated in?*

I appreciated the opportunity that I had when I participated in the competitions. I think it taught me a lot about where I was as an individual and what I needed to do to improve. Sometimes we become complacent in our club environment and the competitions provided the motivation to continue to improve.

*Question 8: If there were ONE change you could influence/push through in Toastmasters, what would that be?*

Start Pathways NOW, and have everyone's hard work carry over in some way into the new program by letter exceptions if necessary.

*Question 9: Who or what inspired you to become an Area Director?*

Our current Club President [Geordie Chambers] inspired me to be the Area Director. He has endless ideas that enhance our club and I am hoping that this new experience will help me be more like him.

*Question 10: What are you planning/hoping to achieve as the Area 10 Director 2017-18?*

This year, I hope to have all clubs in Area 10 become at least Distinguished Clubs.