

Motion:

That the District recognises Mark Richards' dedication to the District by naming the District Officer of the Year Perpetual Trophy the Mark Richards District Officer of the Year Trophy

I would like our district to recognise the hard work and dedication to our district Mark Richards has played throughout the many years we were in formation and since we were officially recognised by Toastmasters International as a District on July 1, 2011. Throughout this time, Mark has dedicated himself tirelessly supporting our District and our members. Firstly, by being a driving force to bring the formation of our district into reality, for many years before 2011. Mark was an integral part of the team who worked hard to make this happen by liaising with Toastmasters International, our original District 73, districts around the world for their best practices to make our district the best, and members in WA. Then he was elected our inaugural District Governor, leading our district to 11th in the world and Select Distinguished District status. At that time, the ranking system for districts was much different to today. Only the 6 highest ranked districts could achieve President's Distinguished and only the next 6 highest ranked districts could achieve Select Distinguished District and then others could achieve Distinguished status. This was a sensational effort for our first year of existence. In the ensuing years, Mark served as a mentor and supporting influence to every District Governor and Director, as well as always making himself available to present at TLIs and training sessions. He readily offers support to our District Champion each year by offering times and venues to practice their speech, receive feedback from past champions and to hone the speech with them, and most years has travelled to International Convention to support them in the Semi-Finals. In 2012 he willingly accepted the role of Chief Ambassador for the Revitalised Education System, which we all now know as Pathways, and dedicated his time to building a team of wonderful Ambassadors who educated our members until 2016. In 2016 he unselfishly relinquished this role in order to run for International Director for our region, Region 12. Unfortunately, Mark was unsuccessful in this endeavour, however instead of being disillusioned and frustrated by this, where he could have withdrawn from Toastmasters and our district, he returned even more willing to serve our members. He made himself available to support new clubs and supported them through to charter and beyond. He presented workshops at training sessions and TLIs and he offered his services as a Pathways Guide. In this role he has supported 9 clubs over the past few months and I'm sure will do so well into the future. He has been our District Website Co-Manager and our District Facebook Manager since our inception. To keep our website and Facebook page current, takes many hours every week. Requests from many Toastmaster members and officers are dealt with daily, along with the hundreds of photos Mark has taken in order for this to happen. He has attended Area, Division and District events purely to take photos. He spends hours at the end of each Toastmasters year researching and writing copy for the History section of our district website where each District Officer is recognised for the part they played in the year that was. Often this is done without his name being added as the author. He also has created a large percentage of the content on our district website, which takes hours to keep current each year. Throughout this whole time, whenever a Toastmaster called for help, Mark was always willing, eager and prepared to roll up his sleeves to assist.

In May this year, prior to our Convention, Mark has been invited and will travel to China in order to present three workshops at the Toastmasters District 88 conference, not for any payment, in fact, solely at his own expense. This is true dedication to Toastmasters

With all this in mind, I would like to move the motion that we recognise Mark's dedication to our district by naming the District Officer of the Year Perpetual Trophy, the Mark Richards District Officer of the Year Trophy. This would entail only changing the name plate on the perpetual trophy, which would actually be an extremely minimal cost to the district, but the honour for Mark would be immeasurable.