



District 17 Leadership Team

Appointed Officers – 2026-2027

For review and endorsement at District Council Meeting #1 – Saturday 19 September 2026

The following members have accepted District leadership roles for the 2026-2027 program year. Members of the District Council are invited to review the list ahead of the District Council Meeting, where the appointed officers will be presented for endorsement.

District Executive Committee – Elected

Elected by the District Council. Listed for completeness; not subject to endorsement at this meeting.

Position	Name
District Director	Maree Pickens, DTM
Program Quality Director	Desmond Miranda
Club Growth Director	Souzy Theophilopoulos

Ex-Officio

Succeeds to this role automatically under Toastmasters International policy.

Position	Name
Immediate Past District Director	Tom Bielski, DTM

Appointed District Officers

Appointed by the District Director and submitted to the District Council for endorsement.

Position	Name
District Public Relations Manager	Mairia Te Are
District Administration Manager	Melanie Jackson
District Finance Manager	Kalavathy Govindarajoo
District Parliamentarian	Gavin Hyslop, DTM
Logistics Manager	Vacant

Division Directors

Position	Name
Central Division Director	Mariana Paliu, DTM



Position	Name
Northern Division Director	Jo Parker
Southern Division Director	Frank Crisafio

Area Directors – Central Division

Position	Name
Area Director C1	Divyanshu Narula
Area Director C2	Patricia Kelly
Area Director C3	Agata Dharma
Area Director C4	David Sawyer

Area Directors – Northern Division

Position	Name
Area Director N21	Vacant
Area Director N22	Jill Kadota
Area Director N23	Liz Fisher, DTM
Area Director N24	Richard Yap

Area Directors – Southern Division

Position	Name
Area Director S31	Samantha Craig
Area Director S32	Soovanch Sungur
Area Director S33	Sophie Amat
Area Director S34	Isaiah Eringo
Area Director S35	Surya Ambati

Interested in a vacant role? If you would like to find out more about serving in one of the vacant positions, you would be very welcome to contact the District Director or the District Administration Manager for a chat.