

Kathy Brennan

Area 1 Director Biography

Kathy Brennan, DTM, of Springfield, Illinois is a retired state government policy consultant. She entered employment with the Illinois Department of Public Aid in 1985 as a computer systems programmer for the cash, medical and SNAP programs. She was promoted to the Illinois Department of Human Services policy division in 2000, where she reviewed legislation, implemented written policy changes, and served as a resource for field operations. Prior to state employment, Ms. Brennan was a special education teacher in both private and public schools in Illinois for 10 years.

Ms. Brennan graduated from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She received graduate level training in special education at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Additional coursework in information technology was completed at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois.

With a goal of becoming an entertaining speaker during retirement, Ms. Brennan joined Toastmasters in October 2014. She is currently a member of three clubs, is an officer in two clubs, and is again serving as Area Director for an Area which was Distinguished under her leadership for the 2016-17 year.

Ms. Brennan cheerfully admits she was a “reluctant leader” at first, as she did not aspire to leadership positions during her many years of employment. Through Toastmasters, she gained speaking skills and experience in relating to audiences which she is turning into a second vocation as a stand up comedian. Most importantly, Toastmasters has taught her that the reward of leadership is not about increasing one’s own status, but it is in helping clubs and their members to thrive.

July 15, 2019