

James L. Childress, ACS, ALB of Fairview Heights, IL, originally from Crossett, Arkansas is a veteran of the United States Air Force. James first experience with the military was the United States Army Reserve where he served two and half years as a Material Control and Accounting Specialist. Later, he entered active duty and joined the United States Air Force as a Ground Radar Systems Technician, primarily maintaining and repairing Air Traffic Control Radar and Doppler Weather Radar Systems. James held numerous other jobs in his 23-year career such as Military Instructor, Quality Assurance Evaluator, Manager of Electronic Combat Ranges, and Cyberspace Policy.

James was introduced to Toastmasters in the early 2000's while serving as a Military Instructor at Keesler Air Force Base, MS. In his second year of Toastmasters, James was elected Club President and helped lead a club with only three members at the beginning of the year to 20 members; earning Presidents Distinguished; achieving 10 out of 10 goals. After completing his assignment at Keesler Air Force Base, James took an 8-year hiatus from Toastmasters, and later reconnected in 2012, just prior to retiring from service.

After reconnecting with Toastmasters, James served in multiple club officer roles and in 2014 was appointed to the District Leadership team as an Area 6 Governor. He has been on the team every year since, serving as Division C Director, Division A Director, Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, and now District 8 Director. It has been a wonderful leadership journey that provided James with a lot of opportunities for growth and foster new friendships. James is a proud member of Fairview Heights Toastmasters and Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters. He is graduate of Webster University in St. Louis, earning an MBA with an emphasis in Management and Leadership.