

## **John Barry, DTM**

John graduated from Mizzou with a degree in accounting and later served as VP of Tax & Accounting for Mercantile Bancorporation. John then had stints in Chicago and New York as VP of Professional Development for the world wide accounting association, the Institute of Management Accountants. While in Chicago in 1989, John joined Toastmasters and served in several club officer roles and also as the Public Relations Officer for Chicago's District 30.

Upon retirement John moved back to hometown St. Louis and became active in District 8 achieving DTM in 2008 and has served as New Club Extension Chair for the past several years. John estimates that he has participated in starting up over 100 new clubs in District 8. John also serves as the Chair of the District 8 Speakers Bureau and helps match qualified speakers with speaking requests received within the District.

John has a great sense of humor and encourages new and existing clubs to have fun while developing confidence in communication. A devoted participant in speech contests, John has reached the District 8 speech contest finals five times winning the Humorous Speech championship in 2008. John credits Toastmasters for developing the self confidence and leadership skills to receive several job advancements and promotions. John says that starting up new clubs and introducing the benefits of Toastmasters to others is a way showing appreciation for what Toastmasters did for him.

In 2018 John was recognized as District 8's Retired Toastmaster of the Year.