



The LOOP

AUGUST 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

- INTRODUCING D103'S 2022-2023 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP
- GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW PR TEAM
- SPEECH CONTEST SEASON IS HERE!
- EVERYTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO STAY IN THE LOOP!



DIONNE LEGGIN

2022-2023 D103 District Director



A periodical of District 103 Toastmasters covering Downtown Chicago along with the South and West sides of Chicago & Suburbs providing inspired information since 2022

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Cover Photo

District Director Dionne Leggin, DTM



Loop Fall 2022

EDITORS' NOTES

When I agreed to take on the role of Editor in Chief of the D103 Newsletter I approached it the same way I approached joining Toastmasters... with a desire to challenge myself. If nothing else, I knew at the end of this yearlong journey I would not be the same person who is currently writing these words to you. For me, the district newsletter has always been an opportunity to keep our members apprised of the latest events and information in and around D103. This is a major reason why we decided to officially name the D103 Newsletter "The LOOP."



Alhaji Abubakar
2022-2023 Loop Editor in Chief

Our philosophy for The LOOP is to bring you Inspired Information. There will be a theme behind each issue. These themes will guide the experience we seek to bring you from one issue to the next. The theme for this first issue is **Inspire & Believe**. Our intention is to inspire you with bold and engaging content. We want you to begin this new Toastmasters year with a belief in your dreams and goals. We also want you to hold an unwavering belief in your district and the limitless support that is always being offered to you. The LOOP is our gift to you and we know you'll enjoy this ride with us!

Alhaji Abubakar
2022-2023 Loop Editor in Chief

As a 3x layout editor, the time I am the happiest is when you get this newsletter in your hands. When I created this layout initially, I actually consumed enough coffee to put a dent in Hawaii's coffee crop and said more choice words that would normally be said during a commute on the Dan Ryan.



Prince Leftridge, II; DTM
2022-2023 D103 Loop Layout Editor
©2014 Martha Brock Photography

When I initially built this layout, I was literally a one-man shop. This time, we have a very strong team working with me. People like Dr. AlyceAnn Crump, Alhaji, Maren, Martha and others will help take this newsletter in directions it has never gone previously.

Prince Leftridge, II
2022–2023 Loop Layout /Graphics Editor

2022-2023 District 103 PRM Team



From left to right Maren Jenkins, Junchi Yu, Dr. Alyce Ann Crump, Jessica Thompson, Martha Brock-Leftridge, Sheila Edens-Brown, Rebecca Daly, Alhaji "HAAJI" Abubakar, Prince Leftridge, II

Shanita Baraka Akintonde **Public Relations Manager**

Home Club: I am the founder and President of District 103's FIRST all-female community club, called Leading Ladies. (Our charter launch was August 25, 2022!)

One thing you may not know about me: Most people don't know that I can dance like Michael Jackson.



Maren Jenkins

Web Manager/Copy Editor

Home Club: West Suburban

One thing you may not know about me: Before I knew Toastmasters existed, my spare time was spent playing steel-tip darts – which is where I met my husband.

Sheila Edens-Brown

Constant Contact Creator/Twitter Manager

Home Club: Toastmasters of Palos Heights

One thing you may not know about me: When working with an online magazine I was given the opportunity to interview and write an article on Tyler Perry.

Dr. AlyceAnn Crump

Video Producer/Visual Specialist

Home Club: Extreme Possibilities

One thing you may not know about me: I have finished all 11 Pathways paths, twice! and three paths I have finished three times: Motivational Strategies, Dynamic Leadership and Persuasive Influence.

Jessica Thompson

Media Relations/Instagram Manager

Home Club: Pathfinders

One thing you may not know about me: I binge watch crime and scandal podcasts, tv shows and documentaries.

Junchi Lu

LinkedIn Manager

Home Club: DIC Toastmasters

One thing you may not know about me: One thing that people might not know about me is that my first visit to a TM club 7 years ago was because I didn't believe what my friend said about earning a lot of money by attending a TM club.

Martha Brock-Leftridge

Social Media Team

Home Club: Elite Toastmasters (Phoenix, AZ)

One thing you may not know about me: I was in the Guinness Book of World Records alongside Oprah Winfrey.

Rebecca Daly

Website Team

Home Club: West Suburban

One thing you may not know about me: My most popular speeches at WST have been about the lionfish.

Alhaji "HAAJI" Abubakar

Newsletter Editor/Publicity Liaison

Home Club: DePaul Leaders Toastmasters

One thing you may not know about me: Whenever I need an extra boost of motivation to accomplish any goal I just go to YouTube and search for a Kobe Bryant interview. It works every time!

Prince Leftridge, II

Newsletter Layout Editor

Home Club: Elite Toastmasters (Phoenix, AZ)

One thing you may not know about me: I have over 864 GB (and growing) of music in my possession which covers genres from Strauss to Slipknot. At least 25%+ of that is House.

More Ta Da's, Less To Do's

Shanita Akintonde

2022-2023 District 103 Public Relations Manager



Fellow Toastmasters,

I am elephant-ear elated to serve as the 2022-23 Public Relations Manager (PRM) for District 103. One of my primary goals is to encourage members to focus less on “To Do”s and experience more “Ta Da” s this year. As PRM, I plan to bring the magic touch to D103. Here are a few Ta Da tips to help YOU do the same.

TA Da! #1: Be-YOU-TII-Full

Begin each morning with self-love, not log-ins. Spend some time focusing inward daily. Do not use FB or Instagram as your barometer for being. Stop tracking other peoples' posts and feeling the need to improve your life. Remember that most hashtags reflect a moment, not the entire movie. Learn to appreciate YOU, flaws and all.

TA Da! #2: Do It Afrald

If you want things to change, you must first realize that you are in the driver's seat. Pick a destination and move forward, not backward. The front

glass pane of the car is larger than the rearview mirror for a reason.

TA Da! #3: Say Yes to the Mess

Perfect is boring. Sameness is sad. Mix things up during the 2022-23 years. Rearrange the furniture. Take a craft cocktail class. Get a new haircut (a messy one)! Learn something new. For VPPRs, the latter one is easy. Register for Table Talk Tuesdays, which will be held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6-7:00 p.m. beginning on September 6. Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtD-ytriwpG9H8NH9MMNFFnzcMADvB-IWj>

Additional details can be found below.

District 103 Toastmasters

For VPPRs, VPMs and other special Invitees

On select Tuesdays, from 6-7:30 pm, Toastmasters International, Inc. (TMs) VPPRs and special guests are invited to join **2022-23 PRM Shanita Baraka Akintonde, DTM**, to dish, LISTEN, and learn how to figuratively BURN the TM brand on hearts, minds, and souls around the world so others can see something good communicators already know —how great it is to be a Toastmaster!

For more details contact D103PRnow@gmail.com.

TABLE TALK TUESDAYS







When You Believe

Written by: Jessica Thompson



It's April 23rd, the last day of the 2022 District 103 (D103) Toastmasters Annual Hybrid Conference in Chicago. During the banquet dinner, Dionne Leggin receives a standing ovation from her peers as she makes her way to the podium to accept her next leadership role as D103's District Director for the

2022-2023 year. "I did it," she says before she is overwhelmed with tears of joy and gratitude. As she stood at the podium in silence, taking in the moment, I could not help but wonder if she was reminiscing about the journey that led her up to this point.

In March 2016, Leggin joined the Broadview Toastmasters Club for personal development. She had recently lost her job and thought Toastmasters would be a great way to network with others. However, a month after joining her club, the late Tony Williams, member and dedicated club leader for Broadview Toastmasters, encouraged her to step into the role as Vice President of Education (VPE). Leggin's initial thought was to say no, but she did not want fear to be the reason why she turned down the role. "One thing that stood out to me is when Tony said, 'Dionne, I am going to be there. I will give you the support,'" she recalled. "And that is what I have tried to do with our members."

Since stepping into leadership, Leggin's biggest goal is to support and encourage each member she meets. Leggin said, "I want members to see their own potential and say, 'oh wow I can do that! I can lead a district with over 2,000 people?!' And I'll say, you absolutely can!" Leggin's passion in showing members their potential is behind this year's D103 slogan: "**When you Believe,**

Incredible Things Happen." After serving as her club's VPE and then President in 2017, she realized there were other leaders within Toastmasters that saw her potential and believed in her ability to lead. In 2019, she was asked to be Area Director for Area 55 by Ivory Gwin (PDD, DTM). In the same year, Gregg Thompson (DTM, IPDD) asked her to become Retention Chair. Later in 2020, Leggin was elected as Club Growth Director for D103, which is part of the Trio that also includes the Program Quality Director (PQD) and District Director.



In 2021, Leggin was elected as PQD for D103. Even though Leggin was elated to move up the leadership ladder, she began to feel burned out due to not implementing any balance or boundaries between her Toastmasters and personal life. "I was doing Toastmasters every day," Leggin said. "I would wake up in the middle of the night thinking of something I needed or something that had not been done. It was crazy." Leggin decided to make some adjustments that would allow her to evenly distribute things in her life such as work, family, friends, and Toastmasters. After speaking with the District Director during that time, she was able to set aside days that made room for personal time with herself and loved ones. "Giving myself that leeway, just took the pressure off."

When I asked Leggin about the support she receives from her family, she begins to choke up. "My family has been very supportive, and I would like to think they have seen the growth from the work I have put in." This moment not only touched me as a writer, but as someone who knows Leggin personally. Not only is Leggin a fellow Toastmasters colleague and mentor, but she is my mom. I can certainly attest to the growth I have seen and the sacrifices she has made to get to the level of District Director. Moreover, I have had the honor to see that growth make its way outside of Toastmasters and exude throughout her personal life as a wife, mother, nana, auntie, sister, daughter, and friend. Leggin not only leads well in Toastmasters, but she is a matriarch of her family.

6 When You Believe

Written by: Jessica Thompson



She has been married for 35 years to Kenneth Leggin, is a proud and “tears of joy” mother to one daughter and two sons, and a nana to two grandchildren who adore her. When Leggin does not have her leadership cape on, she can be found either traveling, spending time with family, working on her lifestyle podcast with her sister, or ordering a Mocha Chip Frappuccino with caramel and chocolate sauce from Starbucks under the name “Lucy,” homage to her favorite television show, “I Love Lucy.”

Leggin looks forward to being fulltime in her personal life once her term as District Director is over. “However, I will still be around even if it’s just visiting other clubs and encouraging other clubs and extending a helping hand,” she said. “Because Toastmasters has really intertwined in my personal life and has made me become a better person overall.” Leggin went on to say, “When Toastmasters gives you a voice, it really gives you a voice. Obviously, you must exercise and use it, because speaking and leading are like muscles. You are only going to get stronger at speaking if you speak, and you are only going to get stronger at leading if you lead.” And certainly, Leggin has done just that when it comes to exercising the tools and resources Toastmasters has provided. She has accomplished several milestones such as receiving her Competent Leader (CL) in 2020 and becoming Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) in 2022 through the Team Collaboration and Innovative Planning Pathways. In addition, she received the Area Online Ovation Bronze Award and Visiting Victor Award in 2020.

“The only way I would have been involved in Toastmasters like

this is because God laid the plan for me to have a job that would allow this.” After Leggin was let go from her job after 26 years, she was able to find another opportunity at the American Academy of Pediatrics as the Publications Inventory Assistant. “Me losing my job was the best thing that could have happened to me at that time. Now I have a job with less stress where can I take on Toastmasters,” Leggin said. “So, I have been blessed in this journey.”



It goes without saying that Leggin is humbled and honored to take on D103 as not only the newest District Director, but the second African American woman to embark on this journey. Cassandra R. Lee (DTM2, IP5) was the first-ever District Director to serve D103 for the 2016-2017 year. Leggin said, “This just shows that anything is possible.” She is hoping to carry the spirit of “BELIEVE” throughout the year amongst D103 Toastmasters Members and her leadership team. “I want to continue to be instrumental” she said. “I want members to ultimately see that they can do what I did; to believe that the impossible can happen.”



Dionne Leggin with Friends & Family

COMPLETING OUR LEADERSHIP TRIO

MEET YOUR 2022-2023 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRIO

Alongside our fearless District Director are two dynamic leaders in their own right. Sam Sukumar, Program Quality Director, and Dushun Mosley, Club Growth Director, are no strangers to District leadership. With their expertise and combined 27 years of Toastmasters experience, D103 is set for success. We sat down with both Sam and Dushun and asked them a few questions so you could get to know your new district leaders.

Sam Sukumar Program Quality Director

How would your family/friends describe you in 3 words?

Intrigued... Introspective... Immanent

How long have you been a member of Toastmasters?

15 years

What sparked your interest and eventual joining of Toastmasters?

Personal and professional development.

Why did you become interested in Toastmasters leadership?

I was ready for it.

In your own words, what is a Program Quality Director and why is it such a crucial role?

The Program Quality Director oversees all aspects of district leaders' training, club officers' training and delivery of all district events. A quality trained leader or officer will deliver quality results and thus we will have a very engaged and vibrant district.

What excites you most about your new role?

An opportune year to lead our district to greater heights as the world opens up.

How will D103 be at least 1% better as a district at the end of the year because you were in this role?

I have set myself a target of increasing our district's Pathways adoption by 7%.



Sam Sukumar, DTM

2022-2023 D103 Program Quality Director

What is one message you wish to share with D103 club members?

If your fellow member is not enrolled in Pathways yet, please guide them to enroll and share the versatility of Pathways.

What is one message you wish to send to D103 leaders?

Pathways engagement has a direct correlation to member retention. Please ensure Pathways is discussed and worked in every club meeting.

How does Toastmasters intersect with your personal life?

Toastmasters I have had the pleasure of working with are now friends for life.

If you were not in Toastmasters, what would you be doing with your free time?

Traveling the world - I was featured as a Traveling Toastmaster by TI in 2020 (below)...

(<https://www.toastmasters.org/magazine/magazine-issues/2020/may/traveling-toastmaster>)



COMPLETING OUR LEADERSHIP TRIO

MEET YOUR 2022-2023 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRIO

Dushun Mosley
Club Growth Director

How would your family/friends describe you in 3 words (the words can be unrelated)?

Hardworking, creative, and self-motivated

How long have you been a member of Toastmasters?

12 years

What sparked your interest and eventual joining of Toastmasters?

I am a Software Engineer and Project Manager Trainer, and speaking is how I earn a living and juggle all the ventures I am involved in. I needed Toastmasters to help me organize my ventures.



Dushun Mosley, DTM
2022-2023 D103 Club Growth Director

How will D103 be at least 1% better as a district at the end of the year because you were in this role?

People will learn creative ways to get and retain members. “Stick and Stay.”

What is one message you wish to share with D103 club members?

Toastmasters is an organization for lifelong learners. You will always learn something new in Toastmasters.

The real thing is that you help others to reach some of their goals in life. Remember “practice makes perfect” — you get better with time in Toastmasters.

Why did you become interested in Toastmasters leadership?

I needed leadership skills in my daily life, and I had not been trained in it. Toastmasters had the training.

In your own words, what is a Club Growth Director and why is it such a crucial role?

I understand that the Club Growth Director is a position that has 2 major responsibilities 1) Facilitate building new clubs and 2) Maintaining existing clubs. This year we need to build 20 clubs with no loss in clubs and increase membership by 30%. Every year we lose members and that is to be expected but those members must be replaced by new (growth) members. This role is crucial because our companies and communities depend on Toastmasters training to help be stronger leaders and speakers.

What excites you most about your new role?

Helping new and existing Toastmasters understand their “why.” Watching members change from talkers to speakers, watching members use their leadership skills.

What is one message you wish to send to D103 leaders?

The world has changed. We can no longer sit back and smell the roses without giving back. If you received a DTM in the legacy system, then get a DTM in Pathways. As D103 leaders, we must create something new that will excite people to want to be a Toastmaster and stay a Toastmaster.

How does Toastmasters intersect with your personal life?

I am a creative person; Toastmasters helps me use my creativity to produce new possibilities.

If you were not in Toastmasters, what would you be doing with your free time?

Spending more time with my music, family, and friends.



2022 - 2023 District 103 Club Growth Committee

The Club Growth Director (CGD) and the subcommittees work together to build new clubs and to support existing members and clubs within District 103.

The function of Club Retention is to assist struggling clubs with less than 12 members. The Club Retention Committee assigns coaches to guide those struggling clubs to Distinguished or better.

Club Quality focuses on establishing a Club Mentor Committee to provide this service through the club mentor program. Club mentors are the advisors and support for new clubs and have a great effect on the degree to which a new club succeeds. In addition to providing mentors to the club, the committee arranges club mentor credit opportunities for members who seek it.

The club new source research chair works closely with the Club Growth Director to develop the District's marketing plan, which is a series of steps to help the District grow healthy new clubs.

In addition to assisting with the marketing plan, the club new source research chair generates new club leads at the District level.

The Club Extension Chair assists the Club Growth Director through maintaining quality leads and providing guidance over the club sponsor program to ensure that prospective clubs are chartered successfully.

The Club Ambassador Program (CAP) fosters the mutual growth of both individual Toastmasters and clubs by encouraging members to visit other clubs within or outside the district — or around the world.

For individuals, visiting other clubs provides an opportunity to explore other Toastmasters environments and gain new experiences and speaking opportunities. For clubs, hosting a club ambassador can energize meetings and share new ideas and viewpoints with its own members.

In addition to recognizing the best practices of club visits (as reported by club ambassadors), the Club Ambassador Program also presents awards to Toastmasters for making the most visits and to clubs for hosting the most visits.

2022 - 2023 District 103 Club Growth Committee



Cassandra Lee, DTM
Club Quality Chair



Marc Maraschino
Club Ambassador Chair



Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM
Club Retention Chair



Don Williams, DTM
Club New Resources



Ray Willis, DTM
Club Extension Chair



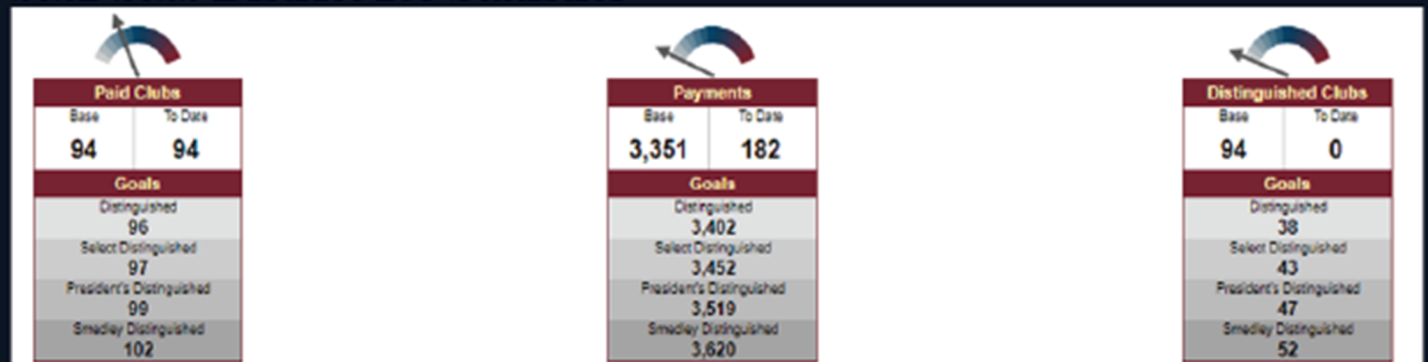


District 103 Statistics

2020-2021 District 103 Statistics



2021-2022 District 103 Statistics



2022 Clubs Currently Missing Officer Lists

Area	Club	Status
B13	2682781-Towering Talkers	List Not Here
B13	3826232-Toast of Chicago	List Not Here
C21	7915485-City Church Chicago	List Not Here
C24	7949135-EY Digital Grid Toastmasters	List Not Here
C24	7959587-Volunteers of America IL, (VOAIL)	List Not Here
S52	7102289-Harper Center Toastmasters	List Not Here
S52	5278285-Greater Englewood Toastmasters Club	List Not Here
S54	7047067-Epiphany Toastmasters	List Not Here
S54	5534-South Suburban Toastmasters Club #5534	List Not Here
F81	4815522-Slalom Chicago Toastmasters	List Not Here
F84	7886498-All Campus Toastmasters	List Not Here
G91	1399894-KPMG Chicago Toastmasters Club	List Not Here
G92	2465344-HERE Toastmasters Club	List Not Here

Officers Trained as of
Aug 25, 2022

Total Club Officers: 535

Officers Trained: 290

D103 has 54.2% of officers
trained.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

INSPIRED AND PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED



DISTRICT 103

PATHWAYS

TRAINING TEAM

News & Inspiration from the D103 Pathways Training Team

The Pathways Gurus have a new name and a renewed mission to help you get the most out of Pathways.

You may know us as the Pathways “Gurus.” But starting this year, we have new titles. I am the Pathways “Program Manager,” and the other members of the Pathways Training Team will be known as Pathways “Specialists”. Together, we’ll be offering online training sessions and one-on-one assistance to help you navigate Pathways and understand all it has to offer.

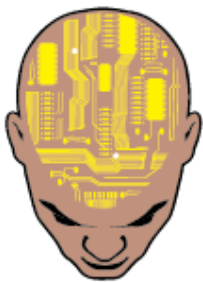
We especially want to work with veteran Toastmasters who joined before 2018 and who’ve never taken the Pathways plunge. Your legacy awards won’t help your club become distinguished in 2022-23. Make this the year you step up

and find out how Pathways can help you reach your personal goals and help your club be successful

The same goes for club officers who aren’t in Pathways. Set the example for your club members. Pledge to complete at least one Pathways level before the end of the year. The D103 Pathways Specialists and I can help you get there. We can even visit your club and present a Pathways training session for all your members.

Watch your email for dates and times of upcoming training sessions. Or feel free to reach out to any of the Pathways Specialists or me for individual help: AlyceAnn Crump, Bhanu Dabadi, and Maren Jenkins.

Sandra Washington, DTM
Pathways Program Manager



Tech Tips

Prince Leftridge, II

This section of the newsletter is designed to give you, the reader, tips on how to effectively use technology and various technological topics when applicable.

Today’s tip is a very simple one. Suppose you have copied numerous items but you need to get to an earlier item. Instead of having to dig through several documents and folders to look for the item, hit Windows Key+V to see everything you have copied to the clipboard. If you don’t see this, check to see if Clipboard History is activated on your system by going to Settings, System. Flip the switch to the right if it is off. You just have to scroll down the list and find the item you are interested in. When you find the item, click it and then Ctrl+V to paste the item into your document.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

INSPIRED AND PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED

DCP Changes

In the past, many of our clubs have had the goals to be Distinguished but are missing the 5 net new members. This prevents the club from officially achieving Distinguished status. As of July 1, 2022, your clubs now have a better chance as becoming Distinguished or better. Enlarge your membership by 3 net members (after replacing any lost members) and get 5 or more goals and your club will be Distinguished. This change runs until July 31, 2024 (two full years).

Now with 3 net new members needed, you can achieve the Distinguished status and bring your club the recognition it deserves.

None of the other requirements have changed. Make sure your club is getting the goals required to complete the Distinguished requirements listed below.

- Distinguished 5 Goals and Net 3 more members as compared to baseline at June 30, 2022
- Select Distinguished 7 Goals and Net 3 more members as compared to baseline at June 30, 2022
- President's Distinguished 9 Goals and Net 3 more members as compared to baseline at June 30, 2022



Smedley Award Campaign

August 1 - September 30, 2022

If your club adds at least 5 new, dual, or reinstated members between August 1st and September 30th, your club will receive the following:

- ***A "Smedley Award" ribbon named in honor of Ralph Smedley***
- ***A 10% Discount on their next order at the Toastmasters International Store.***

Applications and payments for members with a join date between August 1 and September 30 must be received at World Headquarters or online no later than September 30. The addition of transfer and charter members does not count toward Smedley Award credit.

The winning clubs will be revealed online within a few weeks of the submission deadline. Winning clubs should allow up to 10 business days to receive their award if they are located in the United States, and up to 21 business days if they are outside of the United States.



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

INSPIRED AND PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED

2023 D103 ANNUAL HYBRID CONFERENCE

DRIVE YOUR VISION TO A HIGHER GROUND



Fellow Toastmasters, the time to think about the 2023 D103 Annual Virtual Hybrid Conference is NOW! Teams are forming and plans are being made for the event – save these dates: April 21-22, 2023.

Poised to lead the team as D103 Conference Manager, Elizabeth L. Stevenson, DTM, is a Toastmaster since 2006. She is a servant leader, D103 Speech Contest Guru, Toastmasters Leadership Institute trainer and member in good standing in 3 clubs.

This year's theme, "**Drive Your Vision to a Higher Ground**," will allow members and guests to celebrate member and club accomplishments. What can you expect? A weekend starting with a seamless registration process; First timers' orientation; keynote speaker; Toastmasters International Director visit; The Evaluation and International Speech

Contests, engaging educational sessions, the District business meeting including district elections; DTM ceremony, the 2023 installation ceremony; along with raffles, a silent auction and entertainment. New this year, watch for sponsorship opportunities!

Check the D103 newsletter for more updates, opportunities to volunteer, and details on sponsorship opportunities. Don't forget to save the date: April 21-22, 2023!!

Yours in service,
Elizabeth L. Stevenson, DTM2, MS5
confmgr@d103toastmasters.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

2023 D103 ANNUAL HYBRID CONFERENCE

DRIVE YOUR VISION TO A HIGHER GROUND

Volunteers are needed in multiple roles for the 2023 D103 Annual Hybrid Conference. We need volunteers for registration, tech and many, many more areas. If you are interested or need more information, contact Elizabeth Stevenson at confmgr@d103toastmasters.org.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

INSPIRED AND PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED

Save The Date for these Upcoming D103 Training Opportunities

Club Sponsor, Club Mentor, Club Coach Training - (9/8 @6pm and 9/26 @6pm) - more details to come



Are you interested in working with youth? Would you like to teach young people the art of public speaking? Do you want to learn how to become a coordinator of a Youth Leadership Program (YLP)?

If you have any questions about the Youth Leadership Program, feel free to review the details on the Toastmasters International website. [Click here](#) for quick access. For details about the informational meeting, call Ivory Gwin at [847-217-0864](tel:847-217-0864) or e-mail ig2387@att.com.

Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute



Merry Wang
D103 Winter TLI Dean

District 103 will be hosting a virtual Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) training on Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm CST. The Winter TLI will have 6 Educational Sessions across speechwriting, preparing for Zoom meetings, elevating your impromptu speaking, improving your club quality, get a Pathways refresher, and getting prepared for speech contest season. Our Winter TLI Keynote Speaker will be announced in September!

Merry Wang, DTM, Winter TLI Dean, and her team will be bringing us a dynamic event! *Stay tuned for more details!*



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

INSPIRED AND PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED

Special Announcement

A Note from the D103 Chief Judge

Gary Behrens, DTM



The District 103 Leadership Trio is thrilled to announce a “SPECIAL” opportunity for D103 clubs and members that engage in Toastmasters International speech contests during this program year!!

The Speech Contest Rulebook allows **two contestants from a club contest to advance to the next contest level** *under certain conditions*. The Trio has officially invoked Rule 3B effective from September 1, 2022, through the Division Speech Contest period ending March 31, 2023, to exercise this option.*

Chief Judge’s Vision for 2022-2023

Every Toastmasters club of District 103 will actively facilitate opportunities for its members to participate in a speech contest:

- To foster member goals to improve speaking, communication and leadership skills by applying Toastmasters speech contest experiences to Pathways Learning projects,
- Whether as a contestant, contest official, or as a contest functionary,
- Regardless of holding a club contest or not, in person, online, or a hybrid format, and
- With confidence that all District 103 speech contests are conducted in a fair, efficient, and ethical manner according to Toastmasters contest rules and best practices.

What I’d like District 103 leaders and members to know about speech contests

- You have lots of resources available to assist with holding or competing in a speech contest
 - Training videos/webinars on demand at Toastmasters International website or on District 103 YouTube

channel

- Planning documents, FAQs, and more at Toastmasters International and District websites
- A guide to tying speech contest activities to Pathways projects on District website
- An expert Contest Guru available to each Division in District 103
- A Contest Committee developing resources and strategies to support you
- A possibility of having two club winners compete in each type of contest at the Area level
- Speech contests are a great way to further develop your speaking and leadership skills
- Speech contests are a challenge, as any contest should be, yet they are also an achievement all can take pride from being a part of and enjoy as well, while building a network of companions.
- So don’t hang back, accept the challenge and grow your skills!!



The LOOP

Guidelines for Article Submission

Articles may be submitted to newsletter@d103toastmasters.org.

Articles must be a maximum of 500 words or less, but not limited to that number dependent on content (Editors' discretion).*

All high resolution (Minimum 1280x720) photographs, graphics, and artwork must be attached at the time of submission.

If you have questions, please email newsletter@d103toastmasters.org.

Next Issue to be released October 31, 2022

Articles must be in by September 20, 2022

Note:

Editors reserve the right to edit photographs, graphics, and submitted articles at their discretion

Articles submitted after the stated deadlines may be slated for the next issue. No exceptions!