



The LOOP

First President's Distinguished Club Growth Director in the history of D103 and his team!!



*Cassandra Lee, DTM
Club Quality Chair*



*Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM
Club Retention Chair*



*Ray Willis, DTM
Club Extension Chair*

***Dushun Mosley
2022-2023 Club Growth Director***



LOOP

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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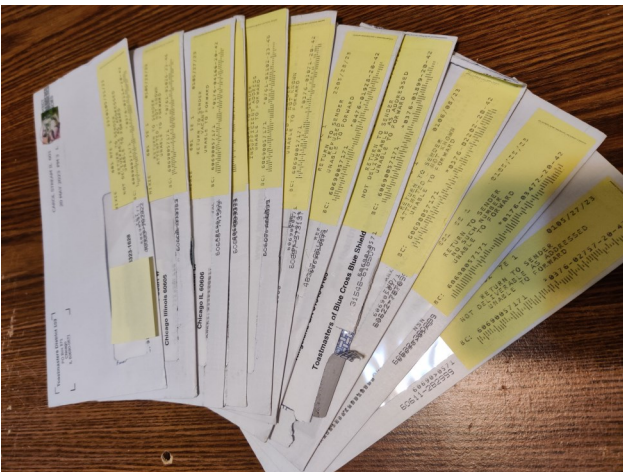
Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM

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Cover Photo

Dushun's and D103's Historic Moment

Photo: Members' Undelivered Mail Returned to the District.



Loop Summer 2023

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District's New Postal Address

District 103 has a new postal address. The address is:

Toastmasters District 103

PO Box 571

Chicago, IL 60690-0571

Should you want to send any mail correspondence to the district or refer someone to send a mail to our District, please utilize the above address.



Please update your mailing address.

The district will be sending recognition letters every month.

Here's the link to update your mailing address <https://www.toastmasters.org/myhome/profile>

District 103 Executive Officers 2023-2024



Introducing **THE QUAD**



SAM SUKUMAR

DISTRICT DIRECTOR



SANDRA LANE

PROGRAM QUALITY
DIRECTOR



SHANITA AKINTONDE

CLUB GROWTH
DIRECTOR



ELIZABETH STEVENSON

PUBLIC RELATIONS
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District 103 Core Executive Team



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MANAGER



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MANAGER



MARC HARLAND

TECHNOLOGY
MANAGER



KIMYADA WELLINGTON

PARLIAMENTARIAN



DIONNE LEGGIN

IMMEDIATE PAST
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

District 103 Division Directors



SAI SIVA KARE

DIVISION B DIRECTOR



ALYCEANN CRUMP

DIVISION C DIRECTOR



CHELSEA THOMAS

DIVISION F DIRECTOR



DONALD HOCKENHULL

DIVISION G DIRECTOR



ROBERT MCKENZIE

DIVISION S DIRECTOR

District 103 Area Directors

Division B	Division C	Division F	Division G	Division S
Marc Harland Area 11	Rose Nathike Area 21	Vic Lim Area 81	Rod Mclah Area 91	Debra Blackmon-Parish Area 51
Sujata Sanke Area 12	Jason Tabour Area 22	Dara Wiltgen Area 82	Geri Tucker Area 92	Sheila Edens-Brown Area 52
Sushant Ujalambkar Area 13	Syed Azeem Area 23	Nadia Morris Area 83	Robert Adamson Area 93	Yvette Beasley Area 53
Samhar Hoz Area 14	Theresa Banks Area 24	Sandra Williams Area 84	Ajay Singh Area 94	Haseena Shaheed-Jackson Area 54

District Director's Notes

Sam Sukumar

2023-2024 District 103 District Director



Hello District 103 Members,

It's my immense pleasure and privilege to have been chosen to lead our district for the 2023-2024 Toastmasters year.

The full suite of district leaders is in place and will help us hit the road running to ensure an effective District administration. At the core of it will be our focus to serve District 103 clubs in the most effective manner, and we will ensure all our deliverables are met - training sessions, speech contests & district support to clubs with the various programs. Our very purpose is to help our clubs be excellent and to grow. We are here to serve you.

My emphases for this year are to put in place a strong administration base, focus on recognition and engagement, and drive to encourage every member, new & existing, to be an aspiring Distinguished Toastmaster with appropriate tools provided, systems, and support in place.

The alchemy of learning, building camaraderie, having fun and goal setting will set us on a seemingly magical transformation process to the best version of ourselves as individuals and as a collective.

With your engagement and commitment, the 2023-2024 Toastmasters year will be another strong year.

Thank you & regards,

Sam

**LET'S GET
REAL.**



Recognition
Engagement
Achievement
Leadership

District 103



2023-2024

Program Quality Director's Notes

Sandra Lane

2023-2024 District 103 Program Quality Director



Greetings, Fellow Toastmasters!

It's my pleasure to be your D103 Program Quality Director from 2023-2024. As we embark on a new Journey to Distinguished, I am looking forward to working with all of you this year. Congratulations to former TRIO members on achieving our District's first distinction in history for their historic accomplishment. The Distinguished brand is on a journey of its own, and I am counting on members, officers, and district leaders to follow me on this flight as we take off, reach cruising altitude, descend, and make a smooth landing.

Pathways needs an impactful shift in engagement, which is what I plan to do as your Program Quality Director. With increased engagement, more educational awards will be achieved, which will, in turn, result in more distinguished clubs! Ideally, I would like to see clubs with 1) active and

engaged members; 2) strong leadership to support well-organized meetings and training for members and officers; and 3) active involvement in Pathways. My belief is that training and engagement are crucial! In July and August, officers will be given additional training opportunities through dynamic officer-make-up sessions. As part of this fall's speech contest preparation workshops, we'll offer multiple training workshops for clubs.

Ready to take off on Flight D103? Would you like to grow personally and develop your leadership skills? Our goal is to achieve greater engagement and overall success in D103 once we are at cruising altitude! It is our responsibility as QUAD and District Leaders to assist you... together, let's get this done!

Club Growth Director's Notes

Shanita Akintonde

2023-2024 District 103 Club Growth Director



The opportunity to serve as the 2023-24 Club Growth Director (CGD) for District 103 fills me with popcorn-pleasing, elephant-ear excitement. As I prepare to assume my new role as CGD, a surge of excitement runs through my body. In this moment of opportunity, I would like to channel my unwavering commitment to Toastmasters into a truly transformative experience. In pursuit of my mission, I am determined to leave an indelible impression on Toastmasters, driven by the belief that growth knows no bounds.

By launching my Each One, Bring One initiative, I aim to increase the membership of District 103 by a staggering 50% within the next year. Although it may seem overwhelming to some, I see boundless possibilities as I look forward to the future. As we strive to achieve our collective goals, I envision a District 103 that is filled with enthusiastic members.

It is my unparalleled business experience and educational background

that have shaped me into the leader I am today. Not only do I have over two decades of experience as a wife, mother, professor, writer, and speaker, but I have also acquired valuable lessons from incredible individuals I have had the pleasure of working with in Toastmasters. By empowering and inspiring others, I aim to cultivate a sense of pride and ownership in being a member of the TM family. Our community will become vibrant as we work together as ambassadors to spread the word and attract new members. To accomplish our goals, I have assembled a team of all-stars who share my penchant for thinking outside the box and exploring new opportunities.

Through the power of my magic touch, I shall ignite the fire within each member and encourage them to embrace the challenges that lie ahead. It is through this inner flame that we will ignite district growth and elevate Toastmasters to new heights. TaDa!

Public Relations Manager Scribes

Elizabeth L. Stevenson

2023-2024 District 103 Public Relations Manager



Happy New Year Distinguished District 103 Toastmasters!

July first marks the official start of the 2023-2024 Toastmasters year. I am Elizabeth L. Stevenson, DTM, and thrilled and honored to serve you as the Public Relations Manager for the 2023-2024 term.

I'd like to share with you a little about myself. I joined Toastmasters in 2006 at my AT&T Toastmasters corporate club and I am a founding member of the New Faith Toastmasters Club (2011). Serving District 103, District 30 and District 3 in numerous roles at the club, area, and district levels, I have held all 7 club officer roles; have managed two Toastmasters Annual Conferences (D30 2010 & D103 2023); been a club mentor, club coach and club sponsor.

I plan to rely upon my professional experience in journalism, corporate administration and customer experience to serve the district in the PRM role.

I am passionate about the Toastmasters model of servant leadership and peer evaluation conducted in a positive and supportive environment. I especially want to boost the district's engagement with our corporate club partners. I plan to use all the resources at my disposal to help fulfill the District Mission where we build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

As your 2023 Annual Conference Manager last year, I would be remiss in not offering my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped to make the event a success. Here is a recap of the event themed, "Drive Your Vision to a Higher Ground."

Co-emcees for the conference were veteran leaders Sporty King and Cynthia Leggett. Keynote speakers, 2018 World Champion of Public Speaking Ramona J. Smith and 2006 World Champion of Public Speaking Edward. E. Hearn challenged members and guests to "Discover the Magic You Possess" and to "Level Up: How To Reach Higher Heights as a Speaker."

The most proficient speakers in all of District 103 went head-to-head, challenging themselves for the title of top Evaluation Speaker and top International Speech Speaker. Congratulations to First Place Evaluation Speaker Crystal Waters.

First Place International Speech Speaker Chad Welch advanced to the next level, the Regional 5 Quarterfinal Speech Competition, in his quest for the crown of World Champion of Public Speaking. Contestant Welch did not advance, and we can root for him again the next time he competes. Finalists will compete on the international stage at the Annual Convention in the Bahamas in August!

Loop Summer 2023

Our engaging workshop speakers are to be praised for enthralling us:

- Eric Versten
- Calvin Gibbs, Jr.
- Haseena Shaheed-Jackson
- Yvette M. Beasley

Club Quality Panelist Discussion:

- Robert C. McKenzie
- Derrick Kimbrough
- Nandini Kurup
- Saundra Washington - Moderator

Finally, we had first-time sponsors at the Annual conference and the plan is for more sponsorship availability at the next Conference!

- OTG Opportunities to Grow - Angela Moustis
- Faith Hope Spirit, LLC - Haseena Shahed- Jackson
- TEDx LakeShoreDrive - Amy Segami
- Ellacec Publishing - Theresa Banks
- DrK - Dr. Keesha Author - Keesha Karriem
- Headshots with Style - Jean and Mary Beth
- Transitional Rehab Partners TRP CDC - Erriann Burkett
- Introbi; Introbi Health; Magic Clusters; Overcoming the Crisis - Robert C. McKenzie
- The Leading Ladies of Toastmasters International - Shanita Akintonde
- Élan Transportation Services - Martha Brock-Leftridge & Prince Leftridge, II
- The Top Line, LLC - Sporty King

We have opportunities for you to showcase your Social Media expertise. If you are interested, please contact Public Relations Manager, Elizabeth Stevenson at prm@d103toastmasters.org.

Congratulations to all clubs celebrating their charter anniversary in July & August

Club	Charter Date	# of Yrs
Bellwood Toastmasters Club #589107	7/28/2003	20
Power Speakers Club #02606161	7/25/2012	11
MxD Toastmasters Club #07988871	7/19/2022	1

Club	Charter Date	# of Yrs
S. Loop Speak Freaks Club #7079	8/1/1988	35
Center Toastmasters Club #5312	8/1/1997	26
Bold Literary Talkers Club #00708973	8/24/2004	19
New Faith Toastmasters Club #1924297	8/16/2011	12
Towering Talkers Club #02682781	8/29/2012	11
Toastmasters of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Club #02686066	8/30/2012	11



CLUB COACHES NEEDED

Ready for Your Next Challenge?

Benefits of being a Club Coach

- *Using your skills to rebuild or strengthen a club*
- *Getting credit toward your DTM for Coaching*
- *Obtaining District Service Credit for 2023-2024*

If you are interested in taking up this challenge, please contact the D103 Club Retention Chair, Martha Brock-Leftridge for more information.



DISTRICT 30 | DISTRICT 103

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

CELEBRATION EVENT

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION RECIPIENTS



Congratulations

IVORY GWIN

FOR YOUR PRESIDENTIAL
CITATION AWARD

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

6:00 PM

CHAMPAGNE TOAST TO
IVORY GWIN, DTM PDD



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER



RESTAURANT IS OPEN IF
YOU WOULD LIKE TO DINE WITH FRIENDS

8700 CARRIAGE GREENS DRIVE
DARIEN, IL 60561

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL STELLA LORENS
AT STELLALORENS@YAHOO.COM

Immediate Past District Director's Notes

Dionne Leggin

2023-2024 District 103 Immediate Past District Director



Our journey last year started with BELIEVING...and look what happened! We have made history. We have distinguished ourselves! District 103 is DISTINGUISHED!

Our ability to accomplish this would have been limited if not for each member of our team. As we look to the future, we must also remember those who started our District and encouraged, advised, and worked to develop it. We would like to recognize the following Distinguished District Directors: Cassandra Lee, DTM, who served as our District's first District Director (2017-2018); Donoley Williams, DTM (2018-2019), who has continued to contribute to the District's growth; Ivory Gwin, DTM (2019-2020), who has mentored so many members into leaders and led our Youth Leadership Program; Joe McCarty, DTM (2020-2021) who successfully guided us through a pandemic into the uncharted territory of the virtual world, and of course, our Past District Director Gregg Thompson, DTM (2021-2022) who continually pushes the vision for our members and District 103 to be Distinguished. Thanks to great examples like these, I was able to build upon what we now have: a Distinguished District!

Moreover, I wish to give my sincere appreciation to my colleagues, Sam Sukumar and Dushun Mosley, and their respective teams. As a result of their tireless efforts, a Distinguished District has been achieved. Additionally, I wish to congratulate Dushun on becoming the first Club Growth Director in the history of District 103 to achieve President's Distinguished. It was thanks to you and the Leadership Team that we persisted to the end.

The success of District 103 is built on the courage of the past, which inspires a mindset of "there is no stopping us now."

Be assured that our District is "powered by momentum and fueled for leadership." Finally, keep your "foot on the gas," as it is essential for getting "your vision to a higher ground." My sincere gratitude goes out to you for believing in yourself.

District 103 Toastmasters

CLUB OFFICER MAKE-UP TRAININGS



Division F
July 26, 2023
6:00PM - 8:00PM CST
Division Director: Chelsea Thomas



Division G
July 29, 2023
10:00AM - 12:00PM CST
Division Director: Donald Hockenhull



Division B
August 9, 2023
6:00PM - 8:00PM CST
Division Director: Sai Siva Kare



Division S
August 23, 2023
6:00PM - 8:00PM CST
Division Director: Robert McKenzie



Division C
August 26, 2023
12:00PM - 2:00PM CST
Division Director: AlyceAnn Crump



For more Information, visit www.d103toastmasters.org

DISTRICT 103 TOASTMASTERS



**IMPORTANT
REMINDER!**

Renew your September Dues before July 31, 2023 for \$45. The dues will increase to \$60 thereon. This is an immediate savings of \$15 to continue your professional development. You can pay this yourself if your club has enabled self-pay.

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL[®]

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®

2023 CONVENTION

NASSAU, BAHAMAS / HYBRID | AUGUST 16-19

Proxy Process

District 103,

Sam Sukumar here, and I am reaching out to the District 103 Club Presidents and Club Secretaries. There is a very important role you play in the election of Toastmasters International Board Members at the Annual Business Meeting on August 18 at the Toastmasters International Annual Convention held August 12-15 in Nassau, Bahamas.

There are key dates you need to be aware of:

- Proxy Assignment will close on August 11 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (UTC -4)
- The Online Credentials process runs August 12-15 for proxy holders and Delegates at Large
- Voting will take place at the Annual Business Meeting on August 18
- Voting will be conducted real time. Voting delegates must be present, either onsite or online during the Annual Business Meeting to vote
- Voting Delegates, whether onsite or online will use their own device for voting

Watch the short tutorial (Scan QR Code) to see how to assign your club's proxy.
This is an important responsibility you don't want to overlook.

Sam Sukumar, DTM

D103 District Director



**Scan QR code using your mobile device to view
Proxy Process Video.**

Past Club Growth Director Final Words

Dushun Mosley

2022-2023 District 103 Club Growth Director

We had a wonderful Toastmasters year in 2022-23. This is the first time D103 has achieved the President's Distinguished status for Club Growth, as over 95% of all club visits have been completed, 87 clubs have paid, and 2,927 payments have been received to date. In addition to six new clubs chartered, we have nine club coaches and ten mentors for these clubs.

All of you within District 103 Area Directors, Division Directors, and club members made this possible. Congratulations and a round of applause to all of you! In addition, I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Club Growth Team of Ray Willis,

Martha Brock-Leftridge, Cassandra Lee, Marc Maschino, and District 103 Trio with Gregg Thompson, the former District Director, who helped me make D103 a success. Ultimately, the real winners are the club members who believe that they are winners.

District 103 members, thank you very much for a wonderful year.

2022 - 2023 Club Growth Committee



Dushun Mosley
Club Growth Director



Cassandra Lee, DTM
Club Quality Chair



Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM
Club Retention Chair



Ray Willis
Club Extension Chair



Smedley Award Campaign

August 1 - September 30, 2023

Add at least 5 new, dual, or reinstated members between August 1st and September 30th

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.



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The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award

Is a worldwide recognition of an elite level of leadership and the highest educational achievement in Toastmasters.

District 103 brings you

“The Road to DTM Masterclass”

Join this focus group wherein we will guide you, support you and share the various opportunities available to get you to become a Distinguished Toastmaster.

Meetings held at 6 PM (CST) on the last Thursday of each month

Scan the QR code to register





Three Essential Pathways Skills for VPEs

If you'll be taking over as club Vice President Education (VPE), make sure your Pathways skills are strong. Here are three essential skills you need to know:

1. How to train club members on Pathways
2. How to approve level completions properly
3. How to keep good records

How to Train Club Members on Pathways

As VPE, you'll be your new club members' first Pathways trainer. That means you'll have to be comfortable enough with Pathways to show new members how to log on, how to choose a path, how to find their Level 1 projects and speech assignments, and how to complete a project. Yes, the Pathways Specialists will be offering Pathways classes throughout the year, but you will still need to be able to help new members along until they can get into a class.

How to Approve Level Completions Properly

One of your duties as VPE is to serve as a Base Camp Manager, responsible for approving members' level completion requests. Always make sure you approve level completions the right way. It's important to verify that the member has completed all speeches and all project requirements before approving their level completion request. Remembering to process the members' awards in Club Central is even more important. That allows the member **and** the club to receive recognition from Toastmasters International.

How to Keep Good Records

The third essential skill for a VPE is good record-keeping. Develop a record-keeping system that lets you know at a glance where your club members are in Pathways. That way, you'll know at a glance if a member is one or two speeches away from helping the club meet a DCP goal. You'll also be able to catch it if a member forgets to request a level completion.

If you need help with any of these essential skills, don't hesitate to contact me or any Pathways Specialists. We're available to answer questions and offer guidance so you can be successful as VPE.



Advertising in This Space

Find out how you can advertise in The Loop Newsletter.

Look out for more information regarding D103 clubs, business owners, and entrepreneurs in the coming months. Take advantage of this opportunity to showcase your business to your fellow Toastmasters and beyond. We were pleased with the initial response to our advertising and sponsorship opportunities offered last April, during the D103 Annual Conference.

This will be available again this year. In this section, you can advertise your business or event. You can choose from several sizes, ranging from a quarter page to a page and a half (business card size) or an entire page. You can also choose whether to use full color or black and white. Depending on your preference, you can appear in a single issue or have a recurring ad for the entire year including the special Annual Conference program.

Stay tuned...



D I S T R I C T 1 0 3

SPEAKERS FORUM

TOASTMASTERS CLUB # 371

*"Honoring Our
Legacy,
Inspiring Our
Future":*

7TH

Anniversary
July | **17**
7PM

Come be our Special Guest

Meeting
899 4898 2238
Passcode 764809

INTRODUCING TOASTMASTERS SUMMERFEST

*Where ceremony meets
socializing!*



WHERE LEADERS
ARE MADE

ABOUT SUMMERFEST

Are you ready to get out from behind the computer screens and meet in person?

We are too!

Let's meet other Toastmasters in a fun low-key social gathering.

Your current District Director, Sam Sukumar, is starting a new initiative designed to bring all D103 Toastmasters together for conversation, community and recognition!

Introducing SummerFest! ---where ceremony meets socializing!

WHAT TO EXPECT

SummerFest is the first of District 103's quarterly social events where we can relax on the formalities and get to know each other.

The Ceremony



Join us to celebrate your amazing achievements. D103 Leadership will be recognizing previous speech competition winners, newly elected district leadership (area directors and division directors) as well as other noteworthy and overlooked accomplishments.

The Socializing

Can we agree that without community, there is no celebration or ceremony? In life, we need the support of others to be successful and it's no different in Toastmasters. At these events, our mission is to talk and get to know our fellow Toastmasters so that we may build systems for support and camaraderie.



JOIN US

- Where: Hollywood Community House, 3435 Hollywood Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513.
- Date: September 16, 2023
- Time: 5pm to 8pm
- *Watch out for the registration link coming shortly.*

We hope to see you there. It wouldn't be the same without you.



It's All About You

When the Loop was developed in 2022, the goal was always to provide inspiring information. However, we can't do it alone. We need your help to highlight clubs, fellow members, events, etc. If you have news about your club, members, or events, send it to newsletter@d103toastmasters.org.

However, we maintain strict deadlines to ensure the newsletter is done on time and efficiently.

Other criteria include:

- a) *Please ensure you are using camera-ready art*
- b) *Professional photos are preferred. Pixelated photos from smartphones will be rejected.*
- c) *Articles must contain 500-750 words*
- d) *If your article comes in after the deadline, it will not be published.*
- e) *Please make sure your articles are grammatically correct*