

DISTRICT
103



The
LOOP

VOLUME
2
ISSUE
2

FALL/WINTER 2023 ISSUE





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.

Editorial Staff

Publisher

Sam Sukumar, DTM; District Director

Editor in Chief

Elizabeth L. Stevenson, DTM

Layout & Graphics

Prince Leftridge, II; DTM

Chelsea Thomas, SR2

Lee Hopkins, DTM

Copy Editor

Sam Sukumar, DTM

Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM

Contributing Writers

Sam Sukumar, DTM; Sandra Lane, DL4; Shanita Akintonde, DTM; Elizabeth L. Stevenson, DTM; Dionne Leggin, DTM; Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM; Prince Leftridge, II, DTM

Contributing Photographers

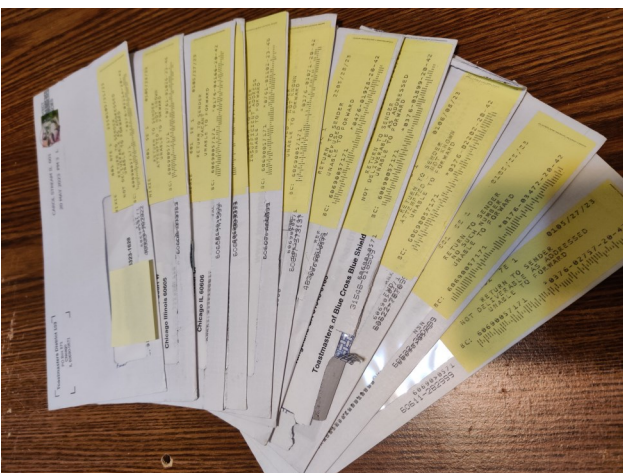
Martha Brock-Leftridge, DTM

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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 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!

As we enter our third month of this new Toastmasters year, I am excited to serve D103 as your Program Quality Director (PQD)! The District's theme for this year is Let's get R.E.A.L.: Recognition, Engagement, Achievement, Leadership. As your PQD, I aim to ensure that we offer training and education sessions to equip every member with the opportunity to be R.E.A.L.!!! We kicked off the year with five (5) makeup officer training sessions and a list of sessions outside of the District so EVERY officer could be trained.

As a district, we are currently at 57%, which is different from where we expected it to be. Also, I must say Thank You to the 356 officers who are trained and ready to serve in club leadership in the most effective way possible!

During our monthly Pathways training sessions, Saundra Washington, DTM, and her fantastic team ensure we can increase our overall Pathways engagement. By increasing engagement, more education awards will be achieved, resulting in more recognition! Our Speech Contest training, led by Chief Judge Solomon Kelly, DTM, will prepare clubs to sponsor dynamic International and Humorous Speech Contests.

This fall! Our resident training expert, Cassandra Lee, DTM, will lead our Open House training later this month. She will provide resources and help prepare clubs to draw in potential members and grow their clubs!

Are you ready to get R.E.A.L. so we can do a REPEAT and be DISTINGUISHED again in 2024? I look forward to working with you all!!!

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
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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!

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
- Sandra 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.





SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2024



DISTRICT 103

*District Wide
Open House*

2:00 PM - 5:00PM

7742 S. Stony Island

for questions contact

CGD, Shanita Akintonde,

773-416-0744.

JOIN US FOR MEMBERSHIP MONDAYS

Are you a Club VPM? Ready to jump on the D103 Membership **Merry-Go-Round**? Our monthly gatherings are an opportunity for you to gain valuable information to guide your member leader journey!



WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Engaging Topics
- Inspirational Member highlights
- Networking Opportunities
- Membership Data Insights
- Fun and Supportive Atmosphere

Whether you're a seasoned VPM or just beginning your leadership journey, Membership Mondays are for YOU! These power hours will occur on the **first Mondays of each month**,

Mark your calendar now and invite your entire Club membership committee! See you there!



For more information, contact
Shanita Akintonde, MBA, M.Ed., DTM your Club
Growth Director ShanitaSpeaks@sbcglobal.net



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
- 2023-2024 District Service Credit*

If you are interested in taking up this challenge, please contact the D103 Club Growth Director, Shanita Akintonde, DTM at cgd@d103toastmasters.org for more information.

Note: In order to receive the District Service Credit, the club must meet the following conditions:

- Serve as a coach for at least six months
- Have the club earn a designation of Distinguished or better
- Have at least 20 paid members on the club's roster regardless of its qualifying requirement



CLUBS CURRENTLY NEEDING A COACH

UIC-COE Toastmasters

Next Step Toastmasters

Chicago Speakeasy Toastmasters Club

US Bank Toast of Chi-Town

BMO-Harris Toastmasters Club

Towering Talkers

Viewmasters

Money Masters Toastmasters

SaaSy Speakers

Loop Trustmasters

The Lynda Morrill Club

Speakers Forum Club

Extreme Possibilities Toastmasters Club

ChiTown SpeakEazy

Michigan Avenue Club

Wicker Park-Bucktown Toastmasters

Toast of TCS

ABA SPEAKEASIES

Accenture Rising Voices

Cook County Toastmasters Club

Chicago Toastmasters

AT&T Chicago East

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Chicago 2

PMI Chicagoland Toastmasters

HHS Toastmasters

HUD Chicago Toastmasters Club

U.S.B.C. Corporate Toastmasters

Sargent & Lundy Club

DIC Toastmasters

Talk Of The Town Toastmasters Club

Saturday Sunrise Club

MSI Chicago Toastmasters

KPMG Chicago Toastmasters Club

PGL/NSG Blue Flames

My Brother, My Sister Speak

Power Speakers

Bold Literary Talkers (BLT) Club

NAACP Chicago Southside

Greater Englewood Toastmasters Club

Christ Universal Temple Club #3 - 666595

Christ Universal Temple Club 1

Toastmasters of Palos Heights

Homewood-Flossmoor Toastmasters Club

Park Forest Club

Club Coach Program for Clubs



Clubs with a club coach gain:

- ▶ Higher quality club meetings
- ▶ A more engaging experience for guests and members
- ▶ Increased membership with more new and renewing members
- ▶ Recognition in the Distinguished Club Program
- ▶ Best practices for longterm success once the coach's term has ended

Your club is eligible for a club coach if:

- ▶ Your club has 3 to 12 members
- ▶ A club officer has completed the Club Coach Program Training module in Base Camp
- ▶ Your club is not currently suspended
- ▶ Your club does not already have two coaches appointed

Ready to have a club coach appointed to your club?

Your District Director will help! You can contact your District by going to their [website](#).



2023 Winter TLI

LEADING WITH INFLUENCE | POWER OF COMMUNICATION



Valerie Smith, DTM
2023 Winter TLI Dean

Here is a recap on the 2023 Virtual Winter TLI.

Total 216 registered for the TLI .

Our guest speakers, Matt Abrahams and Fursey Gotuaco, created a captivating and informative atmosphere that left us all inspired. Their insights into effective communication techniques are an asset that you can now integrate into your daily communications, both personally and

professionally. We would like to share their communication resources and contact information for both speakers, therefore, you can connect and continue to learn how to communicate effectively:

Matt Abrahams:

- Resources – Matt Abrahams – Professor, Podcast Host, Author, Speaker, and Martial Artist
- LinkedIn: Matt Abrahams | LinkedIn
- Email: matt.abrahams@gmail.com

Fursey Gotuaco:

- LinkedIn: (3) Fursey Gotuaco | LinkedIn
- Email: gotuacof@yahoo.com
- Impromptu Group on WhatsApp (see attached document)

The educational training sessions, including the Club Officers training, provided a wealth of knowledge to enhance your communication and leadership skills. These tools will empower you to excel in various aspects of your life. Behind the scenes, the entire TLI Team played a pivotal role in making this event a memorable success, and we are deeply grateful for their dedication.

Educational Session Trainers:

- James Traywick, DTM: "How to Create an Effective Contest Speech"
- Theresa Banks, DTM: "Zoom, Zoom, Zooma, Zoom"
- Linda Patten, DTM: "The Road to Greater Visibility: What do Podcasts, Zoom and Radio Have to Do with it?"
- Charlene Rhinehart, DTM, CPA, PMP: "How to Prepare to Speak Professionally"

See attached photos of the TLI Leaders, TLI Production Leaders, TLI Guest Speakers, Educational Session Trainers, and Club Officers Trainers.

Raffle winners for Matt Abrahams new book release: "Think Faster Talk Smarter:"

- Terri Banks
- Marc Harland
- Coretta Johnson
- Jason O'Malley
- Ray Willis

2023 Virtual Winter TLI recording on District 103 Toastmasters YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/46Bqfsy>

2023 Virtual Winter TLI Music Slideshow: Video Producer: Dr. AlyceAnn Crump, DTM | Advisor/Music Editor: Valerie Smith, DTM

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 Annual Conference

April 19-20, 2024

 *elements*
BY THE DOUBTSYS | SCRYLAND PARK, IL



Sheryl Roush

Keynote Speaker



Volunteers Needed!!

Multiple roles are available on various committees.

For information, email Anita Mihelic at confvolmgr@toastmasters.org



2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 CHIEF JUDGE

SOLOMON KELLY

My vision for the Speech Contest Committee of District 103 Toastmasters:

Elevate the game of District 103 Toastmasters speech skills through club contests. Participating in, winning, and having fun is made possible by ensuring that the participants, both contestants and contest functionaries, receive a fair and informed competition.

- Solomon Kelly, DTM, D103 Chief Judge



Toastmaster Kelly served as the Division B Speech Guru assisting members with conducting quality speech contests from the Club level through Area, Division and District levels. The purpose of the Chief Judge is to provide guidance to District 103 clubs and members on conducting and competing in Toastmasters speech contests. In July 2021, former Chief Judge, Gary Behrens, envisioned a team of Gurus, where there is one Guru resource for each of the five D103 Divisions who could support Club leaders, Area Directors and a Division Director, along with Club Members, in their quests for contest success. The Contest Guru team was launched in July 2021.

Chief Judge Kelly will oversee this team, and assist the Program Quality Director, Sandra Lane with training on conducting quality Speech Contests and keeping current with changing Speech Contest Rules.

Chief Judge Solomon has competed and served as a functionary in speech contests at all levels. He has served as Chief Judge and coached speech contest contestants, in addition to organizing and conducting multiple speech contests.

His rich background includes:

Finalist in the District 103 2019 Humorous Speech Contest

D103 Area Director: he says serving as an Area Director gave him an appreciation for and renewed experience of speech contest benefits.

Congratulations D103 Chief Judge Solomon on your appointment!

DISTRICT 103 FIRST EVER SUMMER FEST



DISTRICT 103 FIRST EVER SUMMER FEST



DISTRICT 103 FIRST EVER SUMMER FEST





ORLAND PARK AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ELIZABETH STEVENSON, DTM
D103 PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce held its Monthly Member Meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Board elections were held at the Orland Park Public Library.

Distinguished District 103 Toastmasters is one of the newest members of the Chamber. D103 Public Relations Manager Elizabeth L. Stevenson was present for the elections.

Newly elected CEO Sarah Staukewicz said she is looking forward to partnering with D103. Her goals are to organize and energize the OPACC, serve current businesses and grow membership in the coming year!

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1958 to increase business growth within the community. Originally boasting 14 members, the Chamber's membership has grown to more than 600 businesses and organizations.

Distinguished District 103 joined the OPACC in October 2023.





D103 YOUTH LEADERSHIP

CYNTHIA LEGGETT, DTM



INTRODUCING...

Distinguished Toastmaster Cynthia Leggett is serving this year as the District 103 Youth Leadership Program Chair.

If you would like to be part of building our future leaders and

communicators, consider becoming a Youth Leadership Coordinator.

What is the Youth Leadership Program?

The Youth Leadership Program is designed for current Toastmasters to organize youth volunteers (with the support of their club) between the ages of 14-18.

The program is a workshop consisting of eight one- to two-hour sessions that enables youth (usually between the ages of 14-18) to develop their communication and leadership skills through practical experience. The program can be presented during or after school hours or on weekends. The program can be run in person or virtually.

What will those future leaders and communicators learn?

1. How to evaluate their speaking ability
2. Prepare and deliver speeches.
3. Give impromptu talks.
4. Control their voice, vocabulary, and gestures.
5. Give constructive feedback.
6. Develop leadership opportunities to serve as officers.

What will the Youth Program Coordinator gain?

1. Serving as a coordinator can be credited towards a DTM.
2. Impact the life of a future leader.

Are you interested in obtaining more information? Check out these Toastmasters links and contact youthleadership@d103toastmasters.org to have a conversation to find out more about this program.

<https://www.toastmasters.org/education>

<https://www.toastmasters.org/education/youth-leadership-program>



Road to DTM Masterclass

Meetings held at 6:00 pm CST on the last Thursday of each month

The Distinguished Toastmaster Award is a worldwide recognition of an elite level of leadership and Toastmasters achievement. This prestigious award demonstrates mastery of communication and leadership skills at the highest level.

Join this focus group where we will provide you with the resources and guidance you need to create a successful DTM journey.

We will also offer the opportunity to network with Distinguished Toastmasters and other DTM candidates.

Scan the QR Code to the right to register



In Memory of

REV. ED HEARN

1958 - 2023

