



The LOOP

VOLUME

2

ISSUE

3

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUE

2024 DISTRICT 103 TOASTMASTERS ANNUAL HYBRID *Conference*

GUEST SPEAKER

Sima Dahl

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- EDUCATION SESSIONS
- FIRST TIMERS
- DISTRICT-WIDE OPEN HOUSE
- ORLAND PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sheryl Roush





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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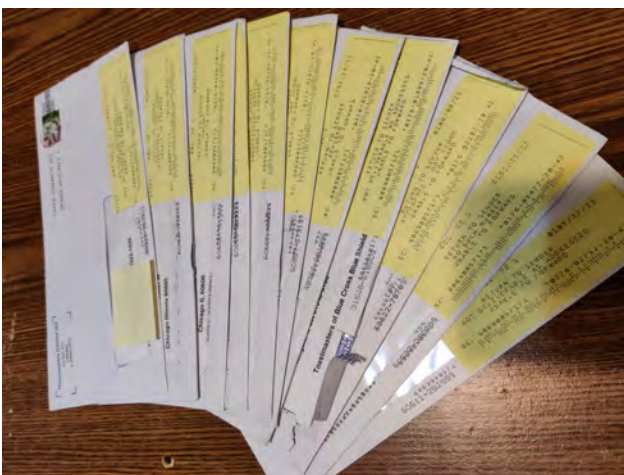
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Conference Graphics and Speakers

Photo: Members' Undelivered Mail Returned to the District.



Loop Conference Issue 2024

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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 is sending recognition letters every month.***

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

2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 DISTRICT DIRECTOR SAM SUKUMAR



Greetings fellow Toastmasters!

As always, it is my honor and pleasure to invite you to join us at the 2024 District 103's Annual Conference. This is the culmination of a whole year of dedication, work, achievements, celebrations and fun along the way.

We are working on some great ideas and themes to make the conference extremely enjoyable and worthwhile. We bring you two Accredited Speakers - Sheryl Roush, as the keynote speaker and our own District 103's Accredited Speaker, Sima Dahl as guest speaker. Sima Dahl, CSP, AS, and MBA, is an international speaker, branding visionary and is one of 12 percent of speakers worldwide to earn the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association.

The District Speech Contests will also be held during the conference. You will experience the district's top five outstanding speakers from both the Humorous Speech and International Speech contest categories. One of our own members could become the World Champion of Public Speaking and you would have witnessed their journey to the top.

We are setting up a "Market Place" to showcase our own Toastmasters entrepreneurs and business owners to support them gain visibility in the wider Toastmasters community. We also expect external businesses to be part of the Market Place.

The theme "Keeping It Real, Elevating Communication Excellence" aptly conveys all that's being planned for the conference – the best of keynote speakers, the best of educational sessions and the best of speech contestants. We will also be showcasing Achievers who have trailblazed their way by achieving top Toastmasters honors and making District 103 proud.

I look forward to seeing you at D103's Annual Conference.

Yours in service,

Sam Sukumar

District Director

**LET'S GET
REAL.**



**Recognition
Engagement
Achievement
Leadership**

District 103



2023-2024

2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR SANDRA LANE



The D103 Annual Hybrid Conference is quickly approaching. I am so excited about what the Conference Committee has meticulously planned for our esteemed D103 members and guests. Our conference theme, 'Keeping it REAL: Elevating Communication Excellence' emphasizes the importance of enhancing communication skills while staying true to oneself.

Renowned keynote speaker, Sheryl Roush, Distinguished Toastmaster and accredited speaker, is set to ignite our passion and enthusiasm as she guides us to elevate our communication skills. As attendees, the conference promises a transformative experience, empowering individuals to embrace their authenticity and communicate with sincerity and confidence. Have you ever experienced a conference in person? If not, this is the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in an energetic learning environment, skills development, and networking amongst fellow Toastmasters. The conference is not just about enriching oneself; it's also about fostering lifelong learning in an environment filled with positivity and inspiration. Additionally, we will celebrate the impressive accomplishments of our fellow members by recognizing new Distinguished Toastmasters, Triple Crown Awardees and Educational

Achievers. I extend a warm invitation to all, especially our newly chartered clubs – Union League, Toast McMasters, and Avant to participate in this enriching experience.

Our educational sessions are carefully structured across three tracks:

- Leadership Development
- Communication Development
- Professional Development

These tracks are carefully designed to provide personal growth by refining both verbal and nonverbal communication skills authentically and effectively. Be prepared for some good laughs during our District Humorous Speech Contest on Friday evening. The International Speech Contest on Saturday afternoon is guaranteed to provide members and guests with both entertaining and inspiring speeches. Our conference promises a blend of learning, laughter, and memorable experiences that will leave a lasting impact on each attendee's journey of self-improvement and growth. So mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable REAL event that promises to uplift, empower and inspire your communication excellence!

SAVE THE DATE!!

2024 D103 Summer TLI | Saturday, June 8, 2024 | 9:00 AM CDT

Theme: "Dare to Lead: Courageous Leadership in Toastmasters"

This theme aims to inspire Toastmasters leaders to step outside their comfort zones, take risks, and exhibit courage in their leadership journey. Participants will explore the essential qualities of courageous leadership and how it can positively impact their experience in and outside of Toastmasters



2024 TLI Dean
Jessica Thompson

More information on volunteering and sessions forthcoming.



Keynote Speaker
Fursey Gotuaco

2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR SHANITA AKINTONDE



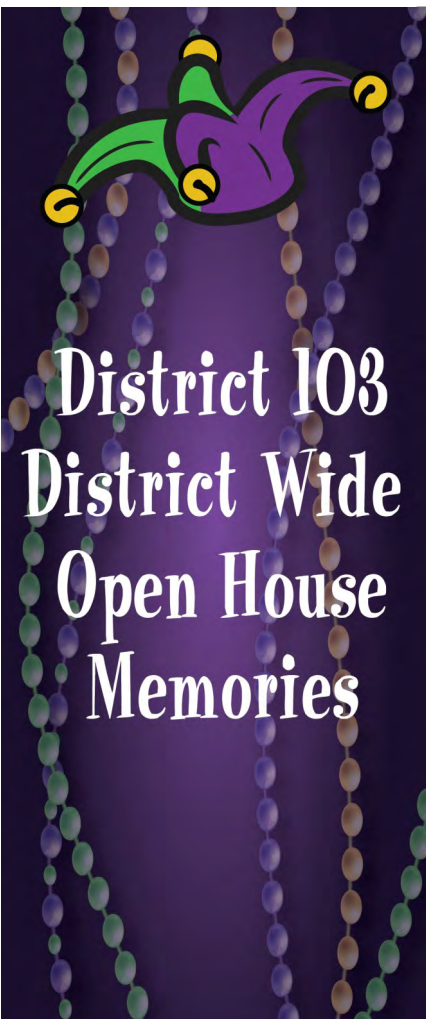
It always seems impossible, until it's done.- Nelson Mandela

It started with a vision. It's called the Each One, Bring One initiative. The concept is simple. Each member of District 103 is asked to invite one person to join a D103 club. I appreciate those of you who continue to answer the call.

But there's another side. I also set an ambitious goal to charter TEN clubs in one year. This has never been done in D103's history. But guess what? I love a challenge. Whenever I am faced with a challenge, I always rise to the occasion. With five months to go, I am proud to report that we're almost halfway there. We have chartered four clubs in just over four months—Union League, Avant, McDonald's Corporation, and Syro Cultural Academy!

Another opportunity to expand our District recruitment efforts was held recently via an AMAZING Mardi Gras themed District-Wide Open House. On Saturday, February 10 from 2-5 p.m., approximately fifty (50) D103 Toastmasters and guests ate jambalaya, jammed to good Jazz, and had "just because" fun! I am still tallying new member conversion rates but suffice it to say a good time was had by all!

Next up is the annual Spring Conference. That offering will be an opportunity to showcase the 100+ new members that this year's CGD team has brought into the D103 family under my leadership. That number is fitting given that 2024 also marks Toastmasters' 100-year anniversary. The thing is, I'm still facilitating more Club charters. Perhaps those members over the 100+ mark will count as presents.



District 103 District Wide Open House Memories



2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER ELIZABETH L. STEVENSON



Greetings and salutations fellow Toastmasters and friends!

Elizabeth L. Stevenson, your District 103 Toastmasters Public Relations Manager welcomes you to enjoy this special Annual Conference Edition of The LOOP newsletter. I am excited about all the volunteer hours spent on bringing you an exciting 2024 District 103 Toastmasters Annual Hybrid Conference held at the venue, elements by THE ODYSSEY, in Orland Park the weekend of April 19-20, 2024.

“Keeping It Real - Elevating Communication Excellence” is this year’s conference theme. Keynote speaker, Sheryl Roush and guest speaker Sima Dahl are prepared to both challenge and encourage attendees to embrace this concept of elevating communication excellence.

Year over year, we strive to bring you engaging speakers, celebrating your accomplishments and to rally behind the most proficient speakers in the District as they compete in the Humorous and International Speech Contests. Who knows, we may just be hearing the next World Champion of Public Speaking on our very own contest stage!

First-time attendees, both virtual and in-person, will have a session dedicated to assisting them navigate their first conference experience and getting them up-to-speed on what to expect!

You'll find the Conference Committee continues the efforts begun last year by offering opportunities for Toastmasters who are entrepreneurs to showcase their business, and for our corporate partners to demonstrate their support by way of sponsorships. I expect increased participation from our corporate sponsors, vendors and exhibitors this year, as well! We are expanding our service to the community by forging a strong partnership with the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce. D103 Toastmasters’ membership in the Chamber is helping to solidify our

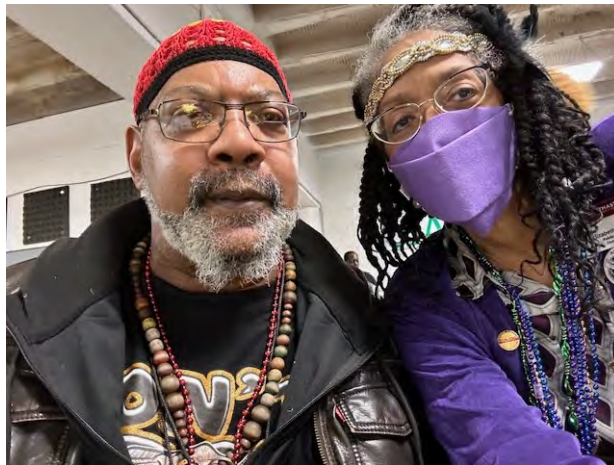
service to area businesses. We are letting the world know how Toastmasters can change lives - starting with our work with the businesses serving the Orland Park area.

As you know, my PR team and I are responsible to protect the brand, and to generate positive awareness of the Toastmaster brand for the purpose of attracting and retaining members. While Toastmasters International is celebrating its centennial birthday in 2024; Distinguished District 103 Toastmasters is celebrating its 7th anniversary - being formed in 2017!

Won't you join fellow Toastmasters, guests and friends from around the

world on April 19-20 where we will be “Keeping It Real - Elevating Communication Excellence?”

I'll see YOU there!



PRM Elizabeth Stevenson and Harry Phillips, a guest, at the District Wide Open House.

2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE MANAGER CHERYL LANE



As the Chair for the highly anticipated 2024 D103 Toastmasters Annual Hybrid Conference, I'm thrilled to invite you to KEEPING IT REAL – ELEVATING COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE on April 19th-20th at the Elements by the Odyssey in Orland Park, Illinois.

This conference is your chance to transform your communication skills from effective to extraordinary. Immerse yourself in a dynamic environment brimming with inspiration, learning, and camaraderie.

Sharpen Your Skills with Renowned Speakers:

Keynote Speaker: Be captivated by the wisdom and expertise of Sheryl Roush, AS, CV, a renowned figure in the communication arena.

Guest Speaker: Gain invaluable insights from Sima Dahl, CSP, AS & MBS, a captivating speaker with a wealth of knowledge to share.

Interactive Educational Sessions:

Our conference boasts a diverse range of interactive educational sessions designed to engage both in-person and online attendees. Whether you're a seasoned Toastmaster or just starting your journey, these sessions will equip you with practical strategies and techniques to:

- Craft compelling presentations that hold your audience spellbound.
- Deliver impactful speeches with confidence and clarity.
- Become an active and supportive listener.
- Master professional and personal development through effective communication. Learn how to leverage your communication skills to advance your career, strengthen relationships, and achieve your goals.

Celebrate Achievements and Witness District Excellence:

- Witness the vibrant Banner Parade showcasing the spirit and achievements of your fellow Toastmasters clubs.
- Cheer on the best of the best in the District Humorous and International Speech Contests.
- Be present for the prestigious Achiever's Awards and the DTM ceremony.
- Be among the first to congratulate the incoming District 103 Leaders for the 2024-2025 term.

Welcome New Communicators!

A heartfelt welcome to all our first-time attendees! We're especially excited to introduce you to the vibrant world of Toastmasters. A dedicated First-Timers Orientation awaits you, providing a warm welcome, essential information, and the chance to connect with experienced members who can answer your questions and guide your Toastmasters journey.

Be among the first to celebrate! You'll also have the special privilege of being present during the induction of our District 103 Leaders for the 2024-2025 term. Witness the changing of the guard and get a glimpse of the exciting leadership opportunities that await you within Toastmasters.

Unparalleled Networking and Fun:

Beyond the exceptional speakers and sessions, the conference provides a unique platform to connect with fellow Toastmasters. Build lasting friendships, exchange ideas, and foster a supportive network that empowers your communication journey.

Don't miss the chance to:

- Enjoy delicious meals and refreshments throughout the conference.
- Participate in engaging activities and entertainment.
- Unwind and connect with fellow communicators at the social events.
- Experience a few delightful surprises we have in store for you!

Make the Most of Your Conference Experience:

For a truly seamless experience, consider staying at the Homewood Suites by Hilton, conveniently located next door to the Elements by the Odyssey. They're offering special rates for D103 Toastmasters!

Ready to Elevate Your Communication Skills?

Register today and secure your spot at this transformative event! Don't miss this opportunity to refine your communication skills, network with inspiring individuals, and celebrate the power of effective communication.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Lane

Chair, 2024 D103 Toastmasters Annual Hybrid Conference

2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE EMCEES

DERRICK KIMBROUGH | CAROLYN ARTHUR



Carolyn Arthur, DTM Past District Governor

Carolyn's journey with Toastmasters began with a desire to improve her communication and leadership skills. She actively participated in her club, taking on various officer roles. These roles provided her with invaluable hands-on experience. As Carolyn progressed through these positions, she honed her ability to deliver clear and concise presentations, motivate and inspire others, and effectively manage projects and teams. Carolyn's dedication and commitment to Toastmasters were ultimately recognized when she was elected District 30 Governor

and later served as the first Program Quality Director for District 103. Leading such a large and diverse district further strengthened her leadership skills, particularly in areas like fostering collaboration and resolving conflict. The well-rounded skillset Distinguished Toastmaster Carolyn Arthur developed self-confidence, tenacity from confident public speaking to strategic decision-making, will undoubtedly empower her throughout her life, both personally and professionally.

Derrick Kimbrough, DTM 2021 D103 International Speech Contest Champion

Derrick's experience with Toastmasters spans over two decades. His initial involvement began with EPA Toastmasters (District 30) where he initially honed his public speaking skills as a Community Involvement Coordinator. After spending almost a decade with the agency, Derrick made a shift into the world of public education. For over two decades, he has served as a teacher leader and administrator where he works to support his colleagues through coaching, program evaluation, and providing quality school-wide professional learning.

Some of Derrick's highlights during his Toastmasters journey include the

following: Area and Division Governor of Year (District 30), Public Relations Officer (District 30), and the inaugural Administrative Officer for District 103.

While every day and year is a joy, Derrick truly appreciates the year 2021. During this year, not only did he earn his Ed.D. in Urban Education Leadership from the University of Illinois at Chicago, but he also won District 103's International Speech contest.

Derrick is excited to be serving along Carolyn Arthur as one of your MCs for the Annual Conference. "It's like a family reunion to be "tag teaming" the weekend with Carolyn. We go "way back" in Toastmasters. I'm geeked!"



2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE

FEATURED SPEAKERS

SHERYL ROUSH | SIMA DAHL

SHERYL ROUSH

Our keynote speaker, Sheryl Roush, is a renowned communication expert, author, and speaker who has inspired audiences around the world. Her dynamic and engaging presentations will leave you motivated, empowered, and armed with practical strategies to enhance your communication skills. Prepare to be captivated by Sheryl's insights as she shares her wisdom and expertise on the art of effective communication.

Sheryl is CEO of Sparkle Presentations, Inc., a conference presenter, top-rated international trainer, 17-time published author and professional speaking and marketing coach. As a sought-after conference speaker, she has presented well over 3,500 programs in 13 countries, as to groups as large as 5,000 in sports arenas. Sheryl has opened for Marie Osmond, followed Olivia Newton-John, and keynote closed for Geena Davis and has appeared alongside Art Linkletter, Joan Lunden, Jane Seymour, Marcus Buckingham, Suze Orman, Vicki Lawrence, John Maxwell, and many more.



SIMA DAHL

Sima Dahl, CSP, AS, and MBA, is an international speaker and branding visionary who will revolutionize the way you think about the business of personal brands. Her experience as an award-winning marketer paved the way for Sway Factor™, her ground-breaking personal branding strategies that empower professional go-getters to stand out, stay relevant, and be in demand. With bold candor, unfiltered honesty, and her signature charismatic style, Sima has traveled from Boston to Budapest to show business owners, enterprise sales teams, and association members how to out-hire, out-sell, and out-perform the competition. Sima is one of 12 percent of speakers worldwide to earn the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association and one of 88 speakers worldwide to earn the Accredited Speaker designation, an honor conferred by Toastmasters International. Only three women in the world hold both. She is a founding member of the Viewmasters Club and currently services as Club Secretary. When she's not speaking, you'll find her on skis or a bike, trying out a new trendy restaurant, or rocking out at a live concert. She lives in the Windy City with her husband, Bill, and her rescue dog Lolla.



2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

HASEENA SHAHEED-JACKSON



HASEENA SHAHEED-JACKSON, DTM:

I say "Do not allow anyone or anything to place you in a corner causing you to believe that you are not important and valuable." I am a lifelong learner. Currently attending Liberty University to obtain a Master's in Human Services Counseling. Estimated completion is September 2024. Haseena currently holds a Master's in Business Administration, and serves as an Area Director in Toastmasters International.



SHANITA AKINTONDE, DTM:

Shanita Baraka Akintonde, MBA., M.Ed., DTM is entrepreneur, educator, author, and Podcast Host is President of ShanitaSpeaks, LLC. Shanita brings 25 years of Toastmasters experience and is the current D103 Club Growth Director. She is a wife and mother who loves her family and loves Toastmasters International. Shanita will be co-facilitating the session in personal development. She will co-facilitate the session with Yvette Beasley, DTM.



VALERIE SMITH, DTM:

Valerie is a renowned speaker and exceptional leader. She has a multifaceted background as a Visionary Leader, Change Agent, Speaker, Podcaster and lifelong learner. As a Subject Matter Expert in the Future of Work, Valerie equips individuals and businesses with the necessary tools to thrive in the ever-changing job market. Valerie will facilitate the session on leadership development.



YVETTE BEASLEY, DTM:

Yvette serves as an Area Director for S53. She has actively participated in Toastmasters since 2012. Yvette is a natural leader, inspiring others to embrace the C.A.N. mentality, Conquering Any Negatives. She will co-facilitate the session for professional development with Shanita Akintonde, DTM.

2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE

FIRST TIMERS RECEPTION & ORIENTATION

ALBERTA MARTIN | MAMIE BURKS GEORGIANA VERNON



Toastmasters International recognizes those who attend a District Conference for the first time as integral participants. These participants are special dignitaries and will be called First Timers.

We are Alberta Martin, Mamie Burks, and Georgiana Vernon the host committee for the District 103 First Timers' Reception and Orientation. If you have already registered or are still considering attending your first District 103 2024 Annual Spring Conference, this page is for you.

As a Toastmaster, Alberta Martin has been active since 2022. Toastmasters taught her how to lead others to achieve their maximum potential. Her Presentation Mastery Level One Project was recently completed. It's no secret that Alberta is a business leader. It was in 2022 that she debuted as a Director at Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Mamie Burks joined Toastmasters in 2006. She is a member of Bellwood Toastmasters in Illinois and Cityscape Toastmasters in Arizona. She is currently serving as Area F1 Director in District 3.

Georgiana Vernon (GG), MS4 has been an Accenture employee for 24 years and a member of Accenture Rising Voices since September 2006. Over the years, Toastmasters has helped her motivate many of her colleagues to prepare for diverse types of presentations. Helping them with their presence in front of a camera, their teams and even leadership has been rewarding to her.

You may be curious about what to expect at your first District Conference. The First Timers' Committee is here to help you make the most of this year's conference! Here are a few agenda items:

- This year's conference theme is "Keeping It Real - Elevating Communication Excellence"
- Get involved by interacting with Conference Officers, District 103 Conference Committee Members, Guest Speakers, Presenters, and other First Timers can reach out to us directly in person or using the chat if you are on Zoom.
- Please review the Conference program to learn about educational offerings, events, and networking.
- If you've already registered, please reply to my email asking if you would like to be recognized on the First Timers' slide that will be shown during the conference.
- Let others know that you are a dignitary by including the letters "FT" in front of your name in Zoom.
- Attend the First Timers' Reception on Friday, April 19 at 5:00 pm CDT. This is a wonderful opportunity to build your Toastmasters network and make new friends. In addition, you will also meet other First Timers, Conference speakers, Committee Members, and District Officers.
- Play the FIRST TIMERS Scavenger Hunt from Friday, April 19 - Saturday, April 20.

As the FIRST TIMERS Committee Chairs, we are available to you before, during and after the conference. We look forward to meeting you soon at one of the virtual contests or at the District 103 Conference! Please don't hesitate to reach out to say hello.

2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

DR. ALYCEANN CRUMP

Are you ready to elevate your communication skills and unlock your true potential? Look no further than the Toastmasters District 103 Annual Conference on April 19-20, 2024! The conference promises to be an extraordinary experience filled with inspiration, growth, and connection. The theme for this year's conference is "Keeping it Real: Elevating Communication Excellence," and we have an incredible lineup of speakers and activities planned just for you.

One of the main highlights of the conference is our keynote speaker, Sheryl Roush. Sheryl is a renowned communication expert, author, and speaker who has inspired audiences around the world. Her dynamic and engaging presentations will leave you motivated, empowered, and armed with practical strategies to enhance your communication skills. Prepare to be captivated by Sheryl's insights as she shares her wisdom and expertise on the art of effective communication.

We are also thrilled to have our very own Sima Dahl as a featured speaker at the conference. Sima is a highly sought-after speaker, personal branding expert, and networking strategist. With her unique blend of humor, authenticity, and practical advice, Sima will guide you on a journey to discover your personal brand and leverage the power of networking to achieve your goals. Get ready to be inspired by Sima's infectious energy and leave the conference equipped with the tools to make a lasting impression in your personal and professional life.

The conference is not only a platform for learning and inspiration, but it is also an opportunity to celebrate achievements. Toastmasters who have reached the pinnacle of success will be recognized with the prestigious Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award. Join us as we applaud these exceptional individuals and draw inspiration from their accomplishments.

In addition to the DTM recognition, the conference will also celebrate the Triple Crown winners. These Toastmasters have demonstrated exceptional commitment by completing three educational awards within a single Toastmasters year. Witness their well-deserved recognition and let their success fuel your own journey of growth and achievement.

Prepare to be entertained and inspired by the humorous and international speech contests. Toastmasters from across the district will compete in these thrilling competitions, showcasing their exceptional speaking skills and captivating storytelling abilities. Be prepared to laugh, cheer, and marvel at the talent on display. These contests are not only entertaining but also a source of inspiration to push the boundaries of your own speaking abilities.

The conference is also a prime opportunity for networking and connecting with like-minded individuals. Engage in meaningful conversations, exchange ideas, and build relationships with fellow Toastmasters from different clubs, areas, and districts. The connections you make at the conference may become valuable resources for ongoing support and growth.

Explore the vendor booths and discover a wide range of resources and services tailored to support your Toastmasters journey. From educational materials to speech coaching, these vendors offer valuable tools to help you enhance your skills and reach your goals. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore new possibilities and invest in your personal growth.

Live Table Topics sessions add an element of spontaneity and excitement to the conference. Test your impromptu speaking skills as you tackle a variety of thought-provoking topics in a friendly and supportive environment. Sharpen your ability to think on your feet and deliver compelling speeches on the spot. These sessions provide a unique opportunity to challenge yourself and grow as a speaker.

Educational sessions are an integral part of the conference, offering a wealth of knowledge and insights from experienced speakers and leaders. Dive deep into topics such as effective communication techniques, leadership strategies, and personal development. Gain practical skills that you can apply in both your personal and professional life. These sessions are designed to equip you with the tools and knowledge to excel in your communication journey.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to be a part of the Toastmasters District 103 Annual Conference. Immerse yourself in a world of inspiration, learning, and growth. Whether you are a seasoned Toastmaster or just starting your journey, this conference will leave you motivated and energized to take your communication skills to the next level.

Mark your calendars for April 19-20, 2024, and get ready for an unforgettable experience. The Toastmasters District 103 Annual Conference is here to help you elevate your communication excellence and keep it real. Join us and embark on a transformative journey of personal and professional growth. We can't wait to see you there!



2024 D103 Annual Hybrid Conference – Join our team!

The 2024 D103 Annual Hybrid Conference is looking for a few good volunteers to join our various conference committees! Conference volunteers help to make the experience enjoyable, informative, and engaging for all attendees.

Serving on a committee is a great way to network, grow in leadership, and potentially knock out a relevant Pathways project. If you have any questions, reach out to Anita Mihelic, Volunteer Chair, at confvolmgr@d103toastmasters.org.

Volunteers serve in a variety of ways before, during and after the conference. Keep reading to see what committees need volunteers and find a role to match your interests and strengths!

- **Education**– Committee Chair Haseena Jackson
Volunteers support educational presenters during the conference. This critical role ensures that virtual attendees can see, hear, and participate in the session. You will act as a liaison between the virtual attendees and the live presenters.
- **Recognition** – Committee Chair Jay Sheppard
Volunteers will assist in organizing and helping to hand out awards during the awards ceremony.
- **Technology** – Committee Chairs Marc Harland and Herbert Obah
Volunteers will work to optimize conference connectivity and maintain effective communication with the conference center tech team to ensure a seamless and technically sound event.
- **Registration** – Committee Chairs Tonja Cook and Wanda Griffin
Registration volunteers provide support at the front, checking attendees in, preparing badges and program booklets, and helping to direct attendees.
- **Logistics** – Committee Chair Cassandra Lee
Logistics handles the on-site, behind the scenes actions to make the conference run smoothly. Volunteers provide additional support to the Technology, Registration,
- **Decorations, and overall Annual Conference Committees.** Duties include handling the behind-the-scenes flow of actions for each event in every room of the Conference, including both in-person and online logistics.
- **Program Book** – Committee Chair Prince Leftridge
Specific skills are needed on this committee, including the ability to use Photoshop and Lightroom for photo editing. Skills in graphic design are also needed, with experience using Canva or Adobe Illustrator.
- **Decorations** – Committee Chair Daphne Lecesne
Volunteers will assist in putting up decorations the day prior to the conference and the morning of. They will also likely help in breaking down after the conference is over.
- **Hospitality** – Committee Chair Debra Blackmon
Volunteers will help to greet attendees, direct them, and inform newcomers about the benefits of Toastmasters.
- **Contest** – Committee Chair Solomon Kelly
Volunteers are needed for contest functionary roles such as ballot counters and judges.

2023-2024 DISTRICT 103 CONFERENCE

LOGISTICS MANAGER

CASSANDRA LEE



A Mighty Team of Three: Behind the Scenes Making Things Happen!

I remember saying something to the effect of, “Thank you, Madam Conference Chair, Madam District Director, and Annual Conference Team.

Although you provided these roses to me for serving as the 2023 Annual Conference Logistics Chair, I want to gift these roses to my team.

We were small, but mighty!

And I would be remiss if I did not recognize them for all the work they did.

I would like to publicly thank Logistics Committee Members Gina Sumpter and Ruth Gardner Woods for working their magic and using their talents which went above and beyond the call of duty to support our 2023 Annual Hybrid Conference!

They were a joy to work with because they were my brain cells when mine were not working; they were the eyes and ears of all teams making sure nothing fell through the cracks; and they were more than team members, they were leaders – performing their role with the Logistics Committee in ways for which I will always be grateful.

Ladies, when I get off this stage, these roses will go to you.”

I held the roses in the air and motioned towards Gina and Ruth, letting them know the gift presented to me as Logistics Chair was provided in large part to the actions and effort they demonstrated.

I remember thanking the Conference Chair again, then taking my place in the back row of conference volunteers on the stage.

I will never forget that leadership experience – or the team in which I served.

We were a team of three.

Small but mighty.

We worked behind-the-scenes to make the 2023 Annual Hybrid Conference an enjoyable event for all. We left Saturday night, tired, but exhilarated and proud of all that we were able to accomplish.

This year, I look forward to the same.

I have the privilege of serving again as the Annual Hybrid Conference Logistics Chair. I do, however, plan to share duties of the Chair role with the District 103 Logistics Manager Herbert Obah, along with a new team of Logistics Committee members.

Will you be one of them?

I hope so.

There is a call for volunteers to serve on a variety of committees for this conference.

It is my hope that you will select to serve on the “behind-the-scenes, on-site and hybrid committee which performs actions to make the entire conference run smoothly.”

It will give me great pleasure to recognize you, your efforts, and your support from the conference stage this year.





Unleash the Welcomer Within: Join Our Hospitality Committee!

Have you ever walked into a new place and felt unsure? We all have! That's why our Hospitality Committee is vital. We make everyone, from seasoned Toastmasters to curious newcomers, feel welcome and comfortable.

More Than Just Greetings:

We're the friendly face of the club, setting the positive tone for your Toastmasters experience. We answer questions (from "Where's the restroom?" to "What's Toastmasters all about?") and foster connections between newcomers and experienced members. This interaction can be invaluable for those considering membership.

Develop Your Skills, Make a Difference:

Joining our committee is a rewarding way to give back. You'll sharpen your communication and public speaking skills while creating a welcoming environment for others.

Are You a Welcoming Person?

Whether you're a seasoned Toastmaster or a friendly newcomer eager to contribute, we want you! We value positive attitudes and a willingness to help.

Ready to Make a Difference?

Email dbrblackmonparrishm@gmail.com to learn more.

Together, let's create a welcoming space where everyone feels valued!



District Speech Contests: Witness District 103's Finest Speakers!

The District Humorous and International Speech Contests are a marquee event at the annual District 103 Toastmasters Conference. Every year, members and guests eagerly await these contests where the district's most skilled speakers battle for top honors.

The winner of the District Humorous Speech Contest will reach the pinnacle of competition at the district level. However, the champion of the District International Speech Contest has the opportunity to advance further, competing at the Regional level and ultimately aiming for the coveted title of World Champion of Public Speaking.

Calling All Functionaries!

If you've enjoyed contributing as a functionary at the club, area, or division level, here's your chance to get involved on a larger scale! This year's District 103 Contest Chair, Samuel Brooks, is actively recruiting volunteers to assist with the District contests.

Interested in Serving?

Contact Samuel Brooks at sbrooks19@att.net to learn more and join the team that helps make these prestigious contests a success!

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 SpeakEasy

Michigan Avenue Club

Wicker Park-Bucktown Toastmasters

Toast of TCS

ABA SPEAKEASIES

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

Park Forest Club



ORLAND PARK AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

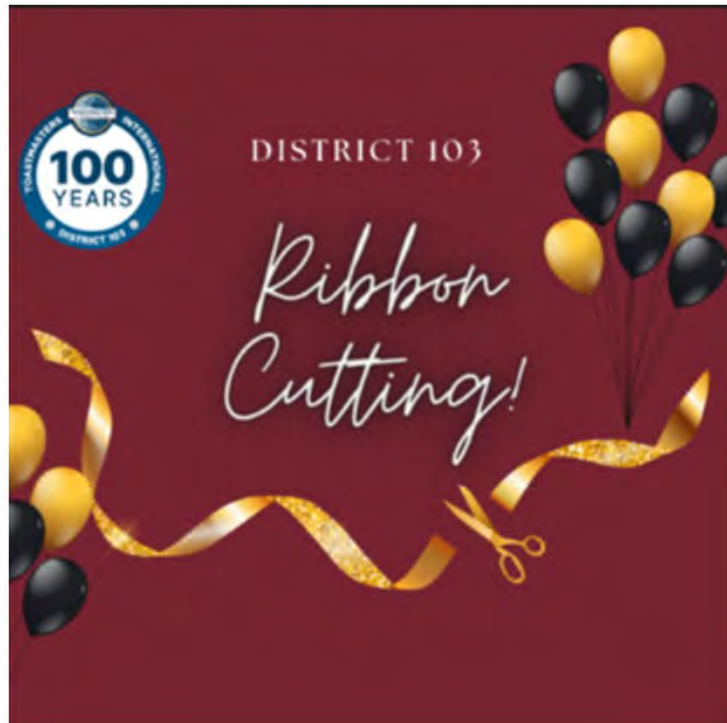


ELIZABETH STEVENSON, DTM | D103 PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Distinguished District 103 Toastmasters is excited about the business relationship we are forging with the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce.

Our membership in the Chamber is helping to solidify our service to area businesses. We are letting the world know how Toastmasters can change lives - starting with our work with the businesses serving the Orland Park area. Part of our membership in OPACC is a welcome ribbon-cutting ceremony! The ceremony celebrating our addition to the Chamber is scheduled for March 11, 2024 at the Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park, IL 60462, 5:30-6:30 PM.

The forethought of becoming a member of OPACC is to engage with the Chamber members, provide them value added services and to initiate programs like "Lunch & Learn" and "Business Communication" workshops. We are already starting to see a high level of interest. One of the local businesses, Bank Financial, has offered us a display table inside their premises for the entire month of March 2024 (see photos below). Bank Financial has also indicated they will be having a display table at our Annual Toastmasters Conference in April.





District 103 Celebrates Excellence: Nominate a Toastmaster of the Year!

Every year, District 103 Toastmasters takes pride in recognizing outstanding members who elevate our organization and their communities.

Among these prestigious awards is the Toastmaster of the Year.

Who is the Toastmaster of the Year?

This award celebrates individuals who embody the very spirit of Toastmasters: leadership, dedication, and a passion for helping others grow.

It recognizes a member who has gone above and beyond in their club and across the district.

What are the qualities of a Toastmaster of the Year?

Imagine a Toastmaster who consistently motivates and inspires others. They actively participate in their club, taking on leadership roles and guiding fellow members on their journeys. They may even contribute valuable time and expertise beyond the club level, supporting initiatives and events across District 103. Ultimately, the Toastmaster of the Year leaves a lasting positive impact on the organization and empowers others to achieve their goals.

Who can nominate a Toastmaster of the Year?

Any paid member of a Toastmasters Club within District 103 can submit a nomination. It's a fantastic opportunity to recognize a fellow member who deserves this distinguished honor.

Don't miss the deadline!

Nominations for the 2024 Toastmaster of the Year award close on March 31st.

How to nominate:

Toastmaster of the Year: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMWT0G84bZiJlIkWpFGBKuOdg9hFZ1N47BBfwj57vAQBnmnQ/viewform?usp=sharing>

Area Director of Year: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFP8I7emRTnJ7RXhgPadthcnuYcHOH_pEpu7t00xUIbU24Lw/viewform?usp=sharing

Division Director of the Year: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerOJ4mWK-D_2KafC_O9o_5oiVQCvZul_ToT_P3lx-hrpzmnA/viewform?usp=sharing

By recognizing our most dedicated members, we ensure District 103 continues to thrive and empower individuals to become confident and inspiring communicators.

Do you know a Toastmaster who embodies these qualities? Nominate them today!



REMINDER

Don't forget to renew your memberships by March 31, 2024.

Renewing your memberships not only helps your growth but also helps your club by meeting a DCP Goal, which, in turn, puts your club on the path of distinction.

If you plan on competing, please ensure you have renewed your membership. Contestants will be verified in the Area, Division, and District Contests.

