



The LOOP

VOLUME
3
ISSUE
1

FALL 2024 ISSUE

VISUALIZE YOUR SUCCESS





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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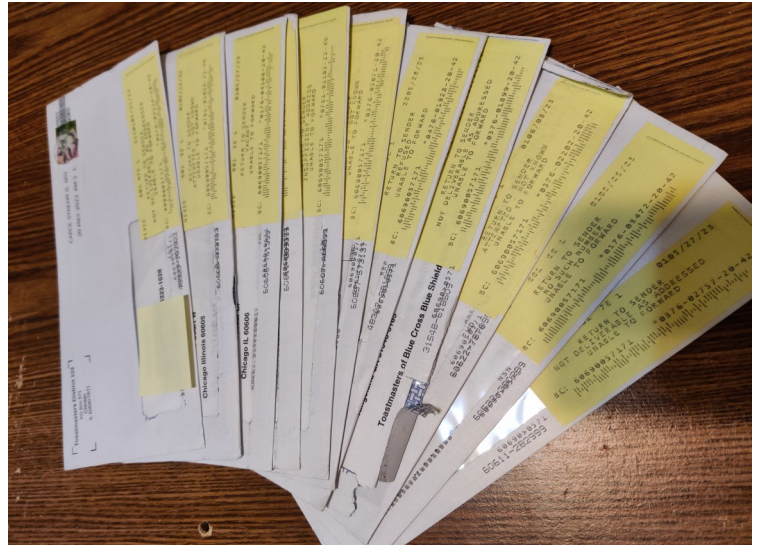
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Photo: Members' Undelivered Mail Returned to the District.



Have you moved in the last year?

The District has received returned mail that contained communications and recognitions for various members.

Please update your mailing address.

Here's the link to update your mailing address

<https://www.toastmasters.org/myhome/profile>



2024-2025 DISTRICT 103

District Director

SANDRA LANE, DTM

A Century of Empowerment: Celebrating Toastmasters International

As we stand on the cusp of Toastmasters International's 100th anniversary, we find ourselves immersed in a century-long legacy of empowering individuals to hone their communication and leadership skills. Founded by the visionary Ralph C. Smedley, this esteemed organization has grown into a global force for positive change, positively impacting countless lives across the globe.

Smedley's dream of creating a supportive environment where people could practice public speaking has evolved into a legacy of personal growth, community, and lifelong learning. His vision continues to inspire us as we unlock our potential, develop confidence, and become better leaders.

The Toastmasters educational program, with its emphasis on structured practice and constructive feedback, has proven to be a catalyst for personal and professional development. Countless individuals have found their voices, overcome their fears, and achieved remarkable success through the guidance and support of their fellow Toastmasters.

From the early days of the organization to its current global reach, Toastmasters has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing a platform for individuals to develop their communication and leadership skills. Through its various programs and initiatives, Toastmasters has empowered countless individuals to become more effective communicators, confident leaders, and engaged citizens.

One of the key factors contributing to Toastmasters' success has been its emphasis on peer-to-peer learning. Through the club meetings, mentoring programs, and educational pathways, members have the

opportunity to learn from and support each other. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of community and belonging, creating a supportive environment where individuals can thrive.

In addition to its educational programs, Toastmasters has also played a significant role in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. By creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members, Toastmasters has helped to break down barriers and create opportunities for individuals from all walks of life.

As we reflect on Toastmasters' 100-year history, we are reminded of the organization's enduring commitment to empowering individuals and making a positive impact on the world. By continuing to provide a platform for personal and professional development, Toastmasters will undoubtedly continue to shape the lives of countless individuals for many years to come.

As we look to the future, let's honor Ralph's legacy by deepening our commitment to the principles he established. Let's encourage greater engagement and dedication to the educational journey Toastmasters provides. Together, we can inspire each other to fully embrace the opportunities for growth, mentorship, and development at the heart of our program.

For this milestone year, I challenge each member to complete at least one level in Pathways and for our clubs, to aim for Distinguished status. Let's end our 100th year with a celebration of our collective success!

Here's to 100 years of empowering communicators and leaders—and to many more years of success. Let's visualize our success: See it. Believe it. Achieve it!



Visualize your Success

See It. Believe It. Achieve It.

2024-2025 DISTRICT 103
Program Quality Director
 VALERIE SMITH, DTM



“Ignite Your Journey: Learn, Act, and Achieve Toastmasters Excellence”

As your Program Quality Director for the 2024-2025 Toastmasters year, my primary focus is on ensuring that each member experiences growth and engagement through their Toastmasters journey. Our clubs are a gateway to personal and professional development, and it's essential that we work together to create a transformative Toastmasters experience. This year, I want to ensure that every member feels empowered to take ownership of their progress, while our clubs and officers foster an environment of consistent growth.

Experience is Everything

What makes a great Toastmasters experience? It all starts with understanding your "Why"—the reason you joined this global organization. Why are you here? What do you hope to achieve?

This year, I want each of you—both club members and club officers alike—to step up your involvement. Let's make 2024-2025 the year where we stretch ourselves beyond our comfort zones. And there's no better way to do that than through participating in speech contests. Speech contests are a unique opportunity to take your skills to the next level by pushing yourself to present on a competitive platform. It's more than just delivering a speech in a regular meeting; it's about testing your abilities in a way that will undoubtedly help you grow.

Our District will begin its speech contest training sessions on September 25, 2024, and I encourage every member to attend. Whether you're a

seasoned speaker or new to competitions, this is the time to expand your horizons. You can find all the details on the District 103 Toastmasters Event Calendar here: <https://d103toastmasters.org/calendar>

Embark on Your Leadership Journey

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) on December 7, 2024! Julian Wiley, DTM, has been appointed as the Winter TLI Dean and will share more information soon. TLI is the perfect opportunity for club officers to boost their leadership potential and gain insights on running effective, high-performing clubs.

Are you ready to lead and make a significant impact in the Toastmasters community? We are thrilled to announce that Valerie Smith, Program Quality Director and Past 2021 D103 Conference Chair, will be interviewing District 103 Toastmasters members who are interested in the 2025 Conference Chair position. This role offers an incredible opportunity to shape one of our district's premier events. You will receive dedicated support and mentorship from Valerie throughout the process. To express your interest, click here to fill out the Google form.

Introducing the Vice President of Education Excellence Workshop Series

This year, we're launching the Vice President of Education (VPE) Excellence Workshop Series, which will meet every 1st Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM CDT. These interactive and engaging workshops are designed to help VPEs grow, learn, and assist their clubs in achieving Distinguished status. Each session will feature topics tailored to equip



District 103 is Looking for Experienced Toastmasters to be Mentors for Newly Formed Clubs



Are You...

- An enthusiastic Toastmaster who's completed at least 3 Pathways Levels?
- Interested in helping new and inexperienced Toastmasters?
- Enjoy serving as a role model, coach and confidante

What are the benefits to Mentors?

- An enthusiastic Toastmaster who's completed at least 3 Pathways Levels?
- Interested in helping new and inexperienced Toastmasters?
- Enjoy serving as a role model, coach and confidante

Club Mentor Training
 Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm Central Time

Scan the QR Code to Register!

Bonus: Receive an Incentive for Serving as a Mentor!



To Join Our Team, please contact:
 Jay Shepherd, DTM | Club Quality Chair
 cqchair@d103toastmasters.org

2024-2025 DISTRICT 103
Program Quality Director
 VALERIE SMITH, DTM



VPEs with practical strategies and insights to thrive in their role. Who can attend? District 103 VPEs, non-VPEs, and even Toastmasters from outside the District are welcome! To register for the workshops, click this link: <https://bit.ly/4cP2kSY>.

Fostering Growth Through Active Participation

True growth happens when you're actively involved. I encourage all club members to take ownership of their Toastmasters journey by stepping up to take on roles, participate in meetings, and engage in workshops and events. As club members, you have the power to make your experience fulfilling. For club officers, the challenge is to provide members with the tools and support they need to succeed. Creating a structured and supportive environment is critical to making sure our members thrive. This year, we'll work together to ensure that every club officer is equipped with the skills and knowledge to guide their clubs toward excellence.

The Path to Toastmasters Engagement

Enhancing member engagement starts with goal setting. By guiding members to set and achieve goals—like completing Pathways projects,

stepping into leadership roles, or participating in speech contests—we pave the way for personal and professional growth.

This motivates ongoing involvement and excitement. Additionally, I'll collaborate with our District leadership to provide workshops, training sessions, and events throughout the year. These resources are crafted to build skills, foster creativity, and strengthen connections, helping you grow as a communicator and leader.

Creating Memorable Toastmasters Moments

As we celebrate 100 years of Toastmasters history, let's honor this milestone by embodying excellence in every moment. Our Toastmaster's experience is about more than just speeches, it's about achieving greatness and leaving a legacy of transformative growth.

This year, with the centennial spirit guiding us, let's seize the opportunity to elevate our skills, deepen our connections, and strive for unmatched achievement. Act decisively, support one another, and let's make 2024-2025 a year of Toastmasters Excellence!

2024-2025 D103 SPEECH CONTEST SEASON TIME

TABLE TOPICS SPEECH CONTEST

Club Speech Contest Dates:
 October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Area Speech Contest Dates:
 January 27, 2025 – February 28, 2025

Division Speech Contest Dates:
 March 1, 2025 – April 1, 2025



INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST



2024-2025 DISTRICT 103

Public Relations Manager

PRINCE LEFTRIDGE, II, DTM



My first Toastmasters International convention, in Palm Desert, CA in 2010, was a bit of a blur due to a combination of sleep deprivation and my exhaustion from the drive, which prevented me from networking with anyone. At the 2024 Toastmasters International Convention in Anaheim, CA, the experience was vastly different. We met Toastmasters from South Africa, Massachusetts, Mississippi, California, New Jersey, Hawaii, New York, Korea, India, and other countries. I ran into a multitude of familiar faces from Districts 3, 100 and 103, including the D103 Trio.

One of the highlights of this convention was getting a sneak peek at the upcoming LMS for Pathways. While still in development, the system appears to be a significant improvement over the current setup. I was particularly impressed with its streamlined interface and user-friendly features. I'm excited to see how this new tool will enhance the Pathways experience for Toastmasters worldwide.

While the results of the World Championship of Public Speaking weren't what I expected, I did have the opportunity to meet Fursey Guotaco in person, a truly inspiring figure in the Toastmasters community. I also had the chance to connect with one of my PRM peers in District 43 who was developing a new quarterly newsletter for her district. I was able to share some tips and resources with her, and I hope that my advice will help her create a successful and engaging publication.

Overall, this convention was a truly memorable experience. I'm already looking forward to attending the 2025 TI Convention in Philadelphia, PA, and continuing to grow as a Toastmaster. I'm confident that future conventions will offer even more opportunities for learning, networking, and personal development.

VPPR Sessions

Are you ready to take your VPPR role to the next level? Join us for our monthly training sessions, where you'll gain the skills and insights needed to succeed. Every second Wednesday, starting October 9th, we'll delve into essential topics, share best practices, and provide practical tools to help you excel in your role. Network with other VPPRs, learn from industry experts, and discover new ways to make a lasting impact. Don't miss this opportunity to grow and thrive. Save the Date!



qrcodemonkey



Our upcoming session on October 9th, 2024, at 7:00 PM Central Time will introduce you to the fundamentals of FreeToastHost. Learn how to create a website, design agendas, and more. Our expert facilitator, Prince Leftridge, II, DTM³, has over 13 years of experience with FreeToastHost. If you're new to the platform, this session is essential! Scan the QR code to register



TOASTMASTERS SPEECHCRAFT

Boost Your Club Membership with a Speechcraft Program

*Discover How to Attract and Convert
Visitors into NEW Members!*

In this engaging training, you will learn:

- How to effectively market your Club and your Speechcraft Series
- What elements get placed where in a design layout
- Easy ways to convert Speechcrafters into new members



**SHERYL ROUSH, DTM, PDG
ACCREDITED SPEAKER**

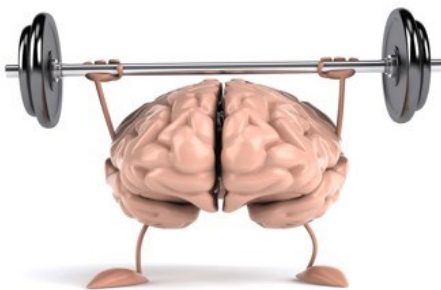
**Monday, October 7
6:00 - 7:30pm Central**

Click link to register
<https://bit.ly/4gipofX>

For more information contact Trina Oddo
cgd@d103toastmasters.org



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 VPE Workshop Series 6:00 PM How to Prepare for the Pathways Upgrade 7:30 pm CST	3	4	5
6	7 Marketing Speechcraft 6:00 PM-7:30PM CST	8	9 VPPR Training Sessions First session to be on Free Toast Host setup and basics	10 Contest Training session covering the critical roles of Chief Judge, Contest Master, and Contest Chair 7:00 PM	11	12
13	14	15 Club Mentor Training 6:30- 7:30 PM CST	16	17	18	19 District Executive Committee Meeting 9:00 AM 100 Year Centennial Toastmasters 12:00 PM - 3:00PM
20	21	22 100 Year Toastmasters Anniversary	23	24	25	26 Toastmasters Informational session 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
27	28	29	30	31		



Ellacec  Publishing

Learn more in 2024!!!

Register for a class **TODAY**
at EllacecPublishing.com! (under "Classes")

Becoming a Published Author

- Virtual
- Manuscript Preparation
- Self-Publishing
- Traditional Publishing

Book Marketing and Promoting

- Virtual
- Promote to your TARGET audience

Zoom

- Virtual
- Basic, intermediate, advanced features

Surviving a Layoff

- Virtual / Recording
- Manage finances
- Create a resume and find a job

PowerPoint

- Virtual
- Create FASCINATING presentations

All classes are reasonably priced at **\$20.24** each. So go ahead... **enroll today** before classes fill up! 😊

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL 2024 CONVENTION

ANAHEIM, CA | AUGUST 14-17, 2024



More photos to come on the D103 Website.



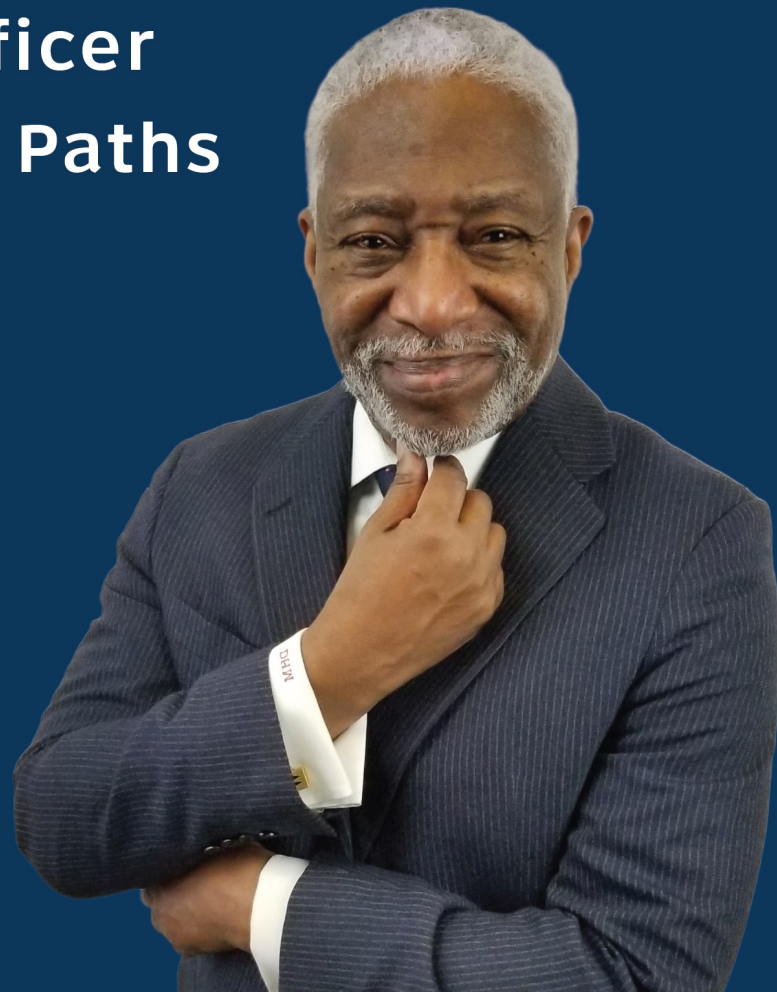
Destination DTM

Upcoming Sessions TBA
7:00 pm - 8:15 pm CDT

- Complete the DTM Project
- Conduct a Youth Leadership Program or serve as club sponsor
- High Performance Leadership Project
- Serve as a Club Mentor or Coach
- Serve as a District Officer
- Serve as a Club Officer
- Complete Learning Paths



Scan the QR Code
to Register



Dushun Mosley, DTM
Facilitator

TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS

— learning experience —

Exciting Updates from Toastmasters International: Pathways Paths

Greetings, Toastmasters!

We are thrilled to share the latest updates about the Pathways learning experience, designed to enhance your personal and professional growth. Toastmasters International has recently introduced several exciting changes to the Pathways program, ensuring it remains a dynamic and effective tool for all members.

New Learning Management System (LMS)

Toastmasters International has launched a new Learning Management System (LMS) that features a refreshed look and feel. This new platform includes six paths:

- **Dynamic Leadership**
- **Engaging Humor**
- **Motivational Strategies**
- **Presentation Mastery**
- **Persuasive Influence**
- **Visionary Communication**

If you have already purchased one of these paths, you will automatically receive the updated Level 1 content when the platform transitions to the new LMS.

Revised Level 1 Content

The revised Level 1 content, released in October 2021, includes two new projects alongside a revised Ice Breaker and Evaluation and Feedback. These updates aim to provide a more comprehensive and engaging learning experience right from the start of your Pathways journey.

Multilingual Support

The new LMS will also support multiple languages, making it more accessible to members worldwide. This enhancement ensures that Toastmasters can continue to grow and develop their skills, regardless of their native language.

Explore the Paths

With 11 specialized learning paths available, Pathways offers a tailored approach to developing over 300 unique skillset competencies. Whether you're looking to improve your leadership abilities, enhance your public speaking skills, or explore new areas of personal development, there's a path for you.

Questions to Consider About Your Pathways Path

As you navigate these updates, here are some important questions to ask yourself:

1. **Is my current path aligned with my personal and professional goals?**
 - Reflect on whether your chosen path is helping you achieve your desired outcomes.
 - **How can I leverage the new LMS features to enhance my learning experience?**
 - Explore the new tools and resources available in the updated LMS.
 - **Am I taking full advantage of the revised Level 1 content?**
 - Ensure you are engaging with the new projects and feedback opportunities.
 - **How can I incorporate multilingual support to benefit my learning?**
 - Consider using the multilingual features to improve your understanding and communication skills.
 - **What additional skills do I want to develop through Pathways?**
 - Identify any new competencies you wish to acquire and see how they fit into your current path.
 - **How can I support fellow members in their Pathways journey?**

Think about ways to mentor and collaborate with others in your club.

FAQ: Discontinued Pathways Paths

1. Which Pathways paths are being discontinued?

- Toastmasters International has announced that the following paths are being phased out:
 - **Innovative Planning**
 - **Leadership Development**
 - **Strategic Relationships**
 - **Team Collaboration**
 - **Effective Coaching**

TOASTMASTERS PATHWAYS

— learning experience —

2. What happens if I am currently enrolled in a path that is being discontinued?

If you are already enrolled in one of these paths, you will be able to complete it. Toastmasters International typically allows members to finish their current paths even after new updates are introduced.

3. Will I lose access to my completed projects and certificates?

No, you will not lose access to your completed projects and certificates. All your achievements will remain accessible through the Toastmasters International platform.

4. How will the new Learning Management System (LMS) affect my current path?

The new LMS will provide a refreshed look and feel, along with enhanced features. If you have already purchased a path, you will automatically receive the updated Level 1 content when the platform transitions to the new LMS.

5. How can I stay updated on changes to the Pathways program?

To stay updated on changes to the Pathways program, regularly check the Toastmasters International website and subscribe to their newsletters. You can also attend club meetings and participate in discussions to stay informed.

6. Who can I contact if I have questions about my Pathways path?

If you have any questions about your Pathways path, you can reach out to your club's Vice President Education (VPE) or contact Toastmasters International directly through their support channels.

We hope this FAQ helps clarify any concerns you may have about the changes to the Pathways program. Embrace the new opportunities and continue your journey towards becoming a more effective communicator and leader! We encourage all members to take advantage of these updates and explore the new features of the Pathways program. Your journey towards becoming a more effective communicator and leader is now more exciting and accessible than ever before.

For more detailed information, visit the Toastmasters International Pathways page
 Toastmasters Pathways Updates : Toastmasters Magazine - Pathways Update : Toastmasters Pathways Learning Experience



HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE PATHWAYS UPGRADE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 @ 7:30 PM CENTRAL TIME

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- MEMBERS WHO WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE PATHWAYS UPGRADE OUTAGE PERIOD
- MEMBERS WHO MAY WANT TO GIVE SPEECHES DURING THE PATHWAYS UPGRADE OUTAGE PERIOD
- MEMBER WHO MAY HAVE DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION IN BASE CAMP THEY WANT TO SAVE
- VPES AND CLUB OFFICERS WHO WANT TO BE SURE THEIR CLUBS ARE READY FOR THE PATHWAYS UPGRADE AND OUTAGE

THIS WILL BE FOR ALL LEVELS

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- HOW TO PRINT OUT PROJECTS SO YOU CAN KEEP GIVING SPEECHES DURING THE PATHWAYS UPGRADE OUTAGE PERIOD
- HOW TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMPLETED PATHS AND PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED PROPERLY
- HOW TO SAVE COMPLETED EVALUATION FORMS, ASSESSMENT RESULTS, QUESTIONNAIRES, AND OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION CURRENTLY STORED IN BASE CAMP



FACILITATOR: SAUNDRA WASHINGTON, DTM
D103 PATHWAYS GURU/D103 PREFERRED TRAINER



SAVE THE DATE!!

2024 District 103 Winter TLI

There's much talk about artificial intelligence (A.I.) and how it imitates human thought and actions. But in D103, we are REAL PEOPLE with KNOWN CONNECTIONS and ORIGINAL STORIES.

Join me at the Winter TLI on Dec 7 as we redefine A.I. with AUTHENTIC INTELLIGENCE!

This is what you have to look forward to...

- ACCOMPLISHED INSTRUCTORS ... to lead Club Officer training
- AMAZING IDEAS ... from our Educational Session Team Incorporating the Theme of "Deeper Learning"
- ARTICULATE INSPIRATION ... from our Keynote Speaker (TBD)
- ALSO INCLUDED ... a Positive and Powerful PANEL DISCUSSION featuring Toastmasters leaders, from Club level up to International!

Let's work together to make the Winter TLI a resounding success!



Julian Wiley
2024 Winter TLI Dean



Staying in the

LOOP

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & DEADLINES

DEADLINES

All submissions must be in by the week before the publication date at 7:00 pm Central Time. For the Issue that will be released on the first of the month, the submission must be in by the 25th of the previous month. For the issue that will be released on the 15th, the submission must be in by the 8th of the current month. ,

Example:

- *11/1/2024 Release Date: Deadline is 10/25/2024 at 7:00 pm Central Time*
- *11/15/2024 Release Date: Deadline is 11/8/2024 at 7:00 pm Central Time*

Submissions will either be moved to the next issue or not accepted if they come in past those deadlines. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

GUIDELINES

All horizontal graphics must not be larger than 1650 pixels by 1275 pixels. Vertical graphics must not be larger than 1275 px by 1650 px. Anything larger will be rejected for immediate correction.

Text must not be greater than 250-500 words. Please make sure your items are proofread for grammar and spelling before submitting.

Photos must not be pixelated or smaller than 600 pixels by 600 pixels. Photos smaller than that will be rejected. The sole exception for this is the calendar which must be larger for the sake of legibility.

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING STAYING IN THE LOOP

If you are not receiving Staying in the Loop in your email, check your whitelist to make sure that Staying in the Loop is able to be received. If that doesn't work, email me at prm@d103toastmasters.org.

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
- 2024-2025 District Service Credit*

If you are interested in taking up this challenge, please contact the D103 Club Growth Director, Samuel Brooks at crchair@d103toastmasters.org for more information.



Samuel Brooks
Club Retention & Coach Chair
crchair@d103toastmasters.org



* 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 US Toastmasters Club

Pwc Speak Easy Toastmasters

Money Masters Toastmasters

Loop Trustmasters

Speakers Forum Club

Toasting on the Green

Extreme Possibilities Toastmasters Club

ChiTown SpeakEazy

Toast of TCS

ABA SPEAKEASIES

Cook County Toastmasters Club

AT&T Chicago East

Slalom Chicago Toastmasters

HUD Chicago Toastmasters Club

HHS Toastmasters

Two-One-Nine Toastmasters Club

Sargent & Lundy Club

DIC Toastmasters

Talk Of The Town Toastmasters Club

Saturday Sunrise Club

MSI Chicago Toastmasters

Bellwood Toastmasters

My Brother, My Sister Speak

Power Speakers

NAACP Chicago Southside

MxD Toastmasters Club

Greater Englewood Toastmasters Club

Christ Universal Temple Club #3 - 666595

Christ Universal Temple Club 1

Park Forest Club

40 clubs eligible for coaches (45.5%), of which 34 don't have any assigned (85.0%)

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](#).