



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District News And Events

District Number 103

November 2020

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Race to Distinguished Standings

Upcoming District Events

Train-the-Trainer Workshop

Would you like to be a certified D103 trainer? Certified trainers are qualified to give education presentations at District events. If you are ready to elevate your skill set to another level, watch for more information about how to register for this workshop to be conducted online. Save the date: Saturday, December 5th.

Zoom Club Officer Summits

Have you heard about Zoom club officer virtual summits hosted by district leaders? They are a good way to connect with peers, learn best practices, and share ideas.

Program Quality Director

Gregg Thompson holds a monthly [VPE Retreat](#) usually on the third Monday every month at 6 pm. Use passcode 'pathways' to connect and gain new insights!

Club Growth Director

Dionne Leggin will host a [VPM Retreat](#) on Tuesday, November 17th from 6:30-7:30 to share best practices on growing club membership and retaining current members. Use passcode GROW2021 to join in.

D103 Public Relations Manager

Valerie Smith leads [VPPR Circle](#) Education sessions monthly on the first Wednesday at 6 pm with featured guest PR presentations.

District Director Joe McCarty plans a Presidents' Extravaganza on December 3rd at 6 pm. to discuss challenges and ideas. Look for details coming soon!

These gatherings will help you be successful in serving your club as District leaders and their guests impart experiences and wisdom!



District 103 Announces "Toastmasters Without Borders" Incentive!

Virtual Environment Offers District and Clubs New Source of Members

Past District Director and Club Resource Chair Don Williams, DTM, made a strong case at the October District Executive Council Meeting for D103 Toastmasters clubs to turn the challenges of current conditions into opportunity. With clubs meeting online, many Toastmasters are visiting clubs across the country and in other countries, too. Don cited an analogy of stepping out of your front door to view the neighborhood, and the neighborhood is now the WHOLE, WIDE, WORLD!! Some D103 clubs have already recruited new members from outside the Chicago area. The real truth is that the District is not constrained by City of Chicago or Cook County boundaries. To help capitalize on this exciting growth strategy, Club Growth Director Dionne Leggin has launched a challenge to D103 Toastmasters clubs to promote their clubs globally and build their membership virtually. The top 10 clubs that attract 5 or more out of state and global members will receive a computer light!! This promotion continues until 6/30/2021. **Start inviting and signing up new online club members now!**

Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute Helps Build Resilience!

The Winter TLI, held virtually on Saturday, November 7th, brought 145 D103 Toastmasters club officers, members and guests together for an engaging, informative online learning experience. Keynote speaker Pat Johnson, DTM, PIP, sounded a call to action from the start with her speech titled "*Resistance Reaps Resilience*," in which she described behavior strategies that can help us each better thrive and be able to handle the unexpected. Participants then had a chance to attend six different educational sessions including introductory or advanced Pathways; judging speech contests; using FreeToastHost; branding online club meetings; leading a club to success; and embracing resiliency and transformation. After lunch, Pat led a solution-oriented workshop on "*Building and Sustaining Vibrant Corporate and Community Clubs*," sharing her experiences and insights that drew strongly on the Toastmasters Promise to resolve challenges. Club officers later were able to complete mandatory training for their respective club officer roles with the objective to finish their tenure strong and achieve goals for club success. TLI Dean Latrina Oddo and her Zoom Co-Host Sam Sukumar did a superb job of organizing and running the program. **KUDOS** to them and to all the session trainers and presenters!!



Latrina Oddo
TLI Dean



Pat Johnson
Keynote Speaker



Sam Sukumar
Zoom Co-Host

WOW! They Did It!

District Toastmasters Achieve DTM Award

Three D103 Toastmasters have reached Distinguished Toastmaster status since September. Congratulations to these leaders on their tenacity and accomplishment!

- Meg Kelly Chicago Speakeasy Toastmasters Club
- Solomon Kelly Loop Trustmasters
- Taheria Brown Epiphany Toastmasters

District 103 Club Celebrates Milestone

CTA Toastmasters Club #1560990 is commemorating its 10-year charter anniversary on Thursday, November 19th, during its regular 12 PM CT meeting. Chartered November 24, 2010, three charter members are currently active club members: Dakarai Mosley, Jack Chalabian, DTM, and Latrina Oddo. ACS, ALB. Plans are being made to hold a ceremony, promote virtually distanced conviviality, and share fond recollections. Former members, including other charter members, as well as District leaders and Toastmasters members are welcome to join the festivities at this [link](#). The passcode is B3ginS.

Clubs Hold Successful Online Speech Contests

Some District 103 Toastmasters Clubs have held online International and Evaluation Speech Contests that were well attended and quite enjoyable. Wrightwood-Ashburn Overcomers (WAO) Toastmasters Club (#771880) was one of the first, if not the first, with its contest on October 24th. One of the most recent club contests was held on November 10th by South Loop Speak Freaks (#7079) with functionary support from WAO and other clubs. Is your club ready to join in on the fun and entertainment? District 103 Chief Judge Gary Behrens, DTM, reminds that club contests must be conducted by December 31st. Training webinars have been conducted to share rules, best practices and resources with club contest officials. For guidance or questions about having a contest, you can contact the Chief Judge [here](#).

New Toastmasters Club Chartered October 31st

Welcome the newest Toastmasters club into D103! Congratulations to 21 charter members and sponsors.

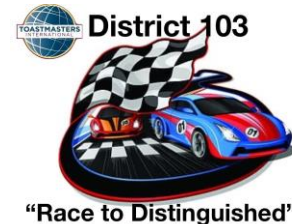
- NAACP Chicago Southside Club #7832889

TOASTMASTERS
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District #103
Chicago, IL

VPPRs Learn All About Branding at Circle Education

The November VPPR Circle Education session featured three guest speakers with unique PR insights on branding Toastmasters clubs. Carrie Lannon, a branding consultant with corporate and entrepreneurial PR experience, gave a fascinating presentation on "*Branding Basics 101*." VPPR Mandy Sha, DTM, shared lively tips applied from her journey into using social media for personal and club branding with her UWIN!™ framework. Dr. AlyceAnn Crump, PR Video Social Branding Manager for District 103, showed how to create a brand video using an Apple app for iPhone and iPad called Keynote. She will return for the December session to conduct a hands-on workshop on how to use Keynote to create a video. VPPRs were excited about all the great information and eager to put it to good use. If you missed the session, go to the YouTube [link](#) to view "It's All About Branding!"



D103 Clubs Jump to Early Lead on Incentive Program!

Program Quality Director Gregg Thompson shared the Top Ten District 103 Toastmasters clubs that are off to a fast start in the "Race to Distinguished" incentive program. *Loop Trustmasters* is the current pole sitter with 7 goals already achieved! In close pursuit with 6 goals reached so far is *Wrightwood-Ashburn Overcomers (WAO)*. Right behind these leaders are two clubs with 5 goals attained each, *New Faith Toastmasters* and *Viewmasters*. In the far turn running neck and neck are six more clubs each with 4 goals met: *Bold Literary Talkers (BLT) Club*, *Broadview Toastmasters*, *DIC Toastmasters*, *HUD Chicago Toastmasters*, *Michigan Avenue Club*, and *Power Speakers*. They're all striving to win terrific prizes that await clubs that earn Distinguished Club status this program year! Check out these amazing rewards.

- ✓ **HD Digital Webcam!** Clubs that meet 5 goals by January 31, 2021*
- ✓ **USB Computer Digital Audio Headset!!** Clubs that make it to Distinguished Club status or better on April 30, 2021*

* Additional criteria apply. See [District 103 website](#) for more information.

Wicker Park-Bucktown Toastmasters Aspires Higher

The Wicker Park-Bucktown Toastmasters club is on the RISE with its social media image. Chartered in 2016, the club has enjoyed steady membership by attracting new members with a well-designed persuasive [website](#), retaining members with friendly and engaging club meetings, and fostering member advancement. It's a proven formula for club success. Still, new VPPR Eneyda Rodriguez felt the club could take its promotional efforts to another level. She attended the monthly VPPR Circle Education meetings hosted by District 103 [Public Relations Manager](#) Valerie Smith and was spurred by a presentation of the PR Team's LinkedIn Social Media Manager, Sanchit Chitre, to create a business group page for the club. Eneyda has already posted several eye-catching inviting, informative and inspiring messages in just a couple of weeks. Click their link below to watch as the club's following builds up! Be sure to like and comment on club branding, cool images and classy style!

[Wicker Park-Bucktown Toastmasters LinkedIn Page](#)

Toastmasters International Offers Free Pathways Path

In case you missed it, International President Richard E. Peck announced Toastmasters who renew membership by December 31, 2020 automatically receive an additional Pathways path for free! To redeem your free path simply go to your [Toastmasters Profile](#) and click "Choose a Path" before March 31st.